

# THE TIMES

No. 66,401

MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999



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## New turmoil hits Clinton over prostitute's son

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN WASHINGTON

THE teenage son of a black Arkansas prostitute is awaiting the results of a DNA test to determine if he was fathered by President Clinton; it was reported yesterday.

The new claim came as the Senate wrangled over how to proceed with an impeachment trial of Mr Clinton for high crimes and misdemeanours relating to his affair with

Monica Lewinsky. Danny Williams, 13, whose mother Bobbie Ann has long insisted that he was the product of one of a number of sexual encounters with Mr Clinton, was said to be in hiding last night with representatives of *The Star*, supermarket tabloid newspaper.

According to Matt Drudge, the Internet gossip columnist who introduced the world to Monica Lewinsky, the boy was persuaded by *The Star* to supply a sample of

his DNA, but the results of a comparison will Mr Clinton's DNA is not yet known. The prospect of such a test presented itself when Mr Clinton provided DNA that was used to prove that it was his semen on Monica Lewinsky's dress.

It was unclear last night whether *The Star* had obtained a sample of Mr Clinton's DNA or was intending to compare the Williams sample with the detailed genetic information about Mr Clinton con-

tained in the report from Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel. Mr Drudge reported that such records were 99 per cent accurate.

Ms Williams has claimed that Mr Clinton paid her for sex on several occasions when he was Governor of Arkansas and she was a prostitute in Little Rock. She passed a lie detector test and has been co-operating with Richard Gooding, the reporter responsible for breaking the story that Dick Morris, Mr Clinton's former adviser, consorted with prostitutes. The White House declined to comment last night on the report.

The emergence of another woman in the President's life came as senators argued over how to try him on charges arising from his affair with Ms Lewinsky. With it looking almost certain, barring new developments, that the required two thirds of the 100-member Senate will not remove Mr Clinton from of

fice by voting to convict him on the two articles of impeachment, the disagreement among senators is over how quickly to rid themselves of the case.

Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, has proposed that the trial should be opened, probably next Monday, and that the prosecutors from the House of Representatives and the White House defence team should be allowed a day each to argue their cas-

es, for and against conviction. The Senate would then have a day to ask questions before voting on whether its members believe that the facts of the case, if true, warrant the President's removal from office.

If anything less than two thirds of senators are of that view, it is likely that a full trial with witnesses and explicit evidence would be abandoned and that Mr Clinton would receive a firm rebuke in the form of a censure motion.

## Markets give a boost to the euro

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE EURO last night made a confident debut in overseas markets as trading in the single currency finally became a reality.

Full-scale trading began in Sydney, the first major currency market to reopen following the new year break, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price. Japanese traders, who were at their desks from 7am local time, also reported the euro gaining against the yen.

For most of the 300 million people covered by the single currency, however, the euro's birth offered no drama as they recovered from new year festivities with little to show for the leap to currency union.

From Dublin to Rome, euro pioneers enjoyed the novelty of writing cheques and using euro credit cards in restaurants and supermarkets, but the practice remains optional until euro notes and coins begin in January 2002. The first euro-denominated postage stamps and bank statements also appeared.

The markets are expecting the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as investors and Central Banks shift an estimated thousand billion dollars out of other currencies such as the dollar and sterling and into the euro.

Trading, however, is likely to be cautious in the first few days with many banks worried that systems problems and human error could cause

huge losses. The Bank of England gave a warning on Friday that problems may not become apparent until later in the week.

The pound is likely to face an especially bumpy ride as it is now trapped between the dollar and the euro. Analysts are divided on whether investors will sell the pound for the euro - bringing relief to hard-pressed exporters — or will continue to view the pound as an attractive "safe haven".

Sydney traders' opening price of \$1.1747 compared with the European commission's conversion price of \$1.1685. The euro also gained against the pound, climbing from 70.54p to 70.82p.

European Union leaders, most of them new from left-wing governments, are worried that too fast an appreciation in the value of the euro, while reassuring the markets, could undermine their job creation efforts.

Anti-euro campaigners, meanwhile, stepped up their campaign against British membership of the single currency. Lord Owen, the former Labour Foreign Secretary, unveiled the launch of a group of leading pro-Europeans opposed to the euro.

Members, who include Lord Prior, the former Tory Cabinet minister, and Martin Taylor, the former Barclays chief executive, are currently drawing up a paper outlining their economic and political opposition to the euro.

The markets are expecting the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as investors and Central Banks shift an estimated thousand billion dollars out of other currencies such as the dollar and sterling and into the euro.

The markets are expecting



A Mounties' coat catches royal eye

by the shaggy coat — worn by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and about 80 years old — she called to the others, including Prince Charles and Prince Harry, to have a look.

Mr Firth, a former racing commentator, of Great Bircham, near King's Lynn, said that the coat "was standard issue to the Mounties in the 20s and 30s. It is excellent if the weather is cold and wet like it is today. The rain just rolls off."



## Switch from grammars will cost £500m

BY JAMES LANDALE AND JOHN O'LEARY

EDUCATION authorities could be forced to take more than half a billion pounds out of frontline teaching budgets to pay for transforming grammar schools into comprehensives.

The substantial costs of reorganising schools if parents vote to make them comprehensive are disclosed in internal council documents obtained by *The Times*.

Education officials at Kent County Council, which runs a fifth of the remaining grammar schools, have estimated that turning them into comprehensives would cost £150 million. The Tories last night claimed that if the costs were mirrored across the country, local education authorities would have to find £500 million to pay for the move.

They said the hidden costs, which could lead to cuts in teachers' pay, books and equipment, were an "unexploded timebomb" underneath the Government's decision last year to give parents the choice to end selection in their schools. Labour accused the Tories of "scaremongering".

The controversy set the stage for a series of battles across the country between campaigners struggling to preserve grammar schools and those keen to scrap selection.

Under last year's Schools Standards and Framework Act, parents have the right to change the status of Britain's 164 fully selective schools.

Twenty per cent of eligible parents must sign a petition by July before a ballot — requiring a simple majority — can take place in the autumn. The Government has refused to offer any extra money to pay for the cost of reorganisation.

The paper, drawn up in December by Kent education officials, gives warning of the "substantial costs" of changing their 33 grammar schools to comprehensives. The costs will be high because many grammar schools are too small to become comprehensives and would be forced to

amalgamate. This would involve many schools having to close down, sell their properties, and move to new locations big enough to take in pupils from several former grammar schools.

Costs would also be incurred by resulting changes in transport arrangements, such as increased and reorganised school bus runs, and by redundancy payments to sacked teachers.

Damian Green, a Tory education spokesman, said: "Those costs will come from the reorganisation that will be required because a significant proportion of grammar schools are too small simply to become comprehensives. Ofsted has recommended that to be a successful comprehensive, you need at least 900 pupils."

Labour councillors on Kent education authority have demanded that the estimate be withdrawn from the report.

Leading article, page 21

## Safety signal for Charlie Whelan

The future of Gordon Brown's press aide Charlie Whelan looked more secure after Downing Street backed away from demanding his dismissal over his alleged involvement in Peter Mandelson's downfall.

Downing Street made clear that Mr Whelan's future was entirely in the hands of Mr Brown.

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Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, narrowly escaped assassination yesterday. A bomb exploded under a bridge outside the Punjab capital of Lahore shortly before Mr Sharif and his family crossed it.

Members of the Muttahida Qaumi movement, whose supporters are Urdu-speaking, were arrested.

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## Two die as 75mph winds batter the South

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

TWO people died yesterday and 25 weekend sailors were rescued from the sea as heavy rain, high seas and 75mph winds battered southern England, felling trees and power lines and tearing boats from their moorings.

Scattered showers and sunny breaks are forecast today in the South, but prolonged rain and gale-force winds are expected in northern England and Scotland.

Robert Bridger, 70, was crushed to

death when an oak tree fell on him in his garden at Bolney, in West Sussex. His grandson, Robert Thomson, 11, escaped injury by running to safety.

In Somerset a 51-year-old man was killed as he walked along the coastal path in Bridgwater. It is thought he was hit by parts of a tree root.

Twenty-five people were plucked from the sea by lifeboats of the Essex coast. The annual three-quarters-mile Brass Monkeys dinghy race, by the Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club, was abandoned within 15 minutes after winds

overturned nearly all 14 starters. A woman out walking with friends at Brown Candover, near New Alresford in Hampshire, suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked unconscious by a falling tree.

Brighton's Palace Pier was evacuated as heavy seas threatened the safety of visitors, and in Selsey, West Sussex, a caravan park was flooded. In Exeter, Devon, Athalie Collins, 31, had a narrow escape when a tree crushed her car seconds after she had got out. Thames and Dover Coastguard sta-

tions received many emergency calls as winds gusting up to 60 knots overturned dozens of small boats, pitching their occupants into the sea.

At Aldeburgh, Suffolk, an RAF rescue helicopter picked up a windsurfer being carried out to sea. In Herne Bay, the Whitstable lifeboat, which had been called out to assist small angling boats in distress, capsized at the harbour entrance. The crew managed to get ashore unaided.

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# Riddle over Mandelson agent case

POLICE investigating the sudden collapse of a fraud case against Peter Mandelson's former election agent have been told that some people seemed to know several days in advance that it was going to be dropped.

The case against Bernard Carr, the MP's 1997 election agent, who was accused of fiddling council expenses, attracted attention because Mr Mandelson was likely to be called as a character witness. The withdrawal of charges by the Crown Prosecution Service minutes before the trial was due to start at Teesside Crown Court in February 1998 aston-

**Councillor says it was known that trial would be dropped, reports Dominic Kennedy**

ished the police. Not everybody was surprised.

At a conference in Scarborough the previous weekend, a Hartlepool Labour councillor was told that Mr Mandelson would not be travelling North for the trial because it was being dropped.

Stan Kaiser, a Conservative councillor in the town, who says that he was told this by the Labour councillor, has written to Cleveland police asking for an investigation. The Assistant Chief Constable, Richard

Brunstrom, said yesterday: "Police inquiries arising from the collapse of the trial in February 1998 have not been completed. It is a complicated situation which merits careful consideration and we will not rush to a conclusion."

Mr Kaiser has declined to name publicly the Labour source. Six Hartlepool Labour councillors attended the Scarborough conference. He said: "If they were, in fact, told that the case was due to be dropped, then that of course is a serious

breach of the law. That is a jailable offence somewhere along the line."

It was the second time in months that a criminal case against Mr Carr had been dropped. He was arrested in a public lavatory and charged with gross indecency with an 18-year-old man. Mr Carr was bailed to appear before Hartlepool magistrates but in December 1997 the CPS asked the bench to discontinue the case.

On the morning that Mr Carr's fraud trial was due to begin, the

prosecutors arrived expecting to proceed with a case which had cost an estimated £100,000 to investigate.

When new issues were raised by the defence, the prosecuting barrister again interviewed two witnesses, Bryan Hanson, then council leader, and John Walton, the chief finance officer. The prosecution decided to offer no evidence and Mr Carr was cleared of obtaining £666 by deception from the council and trying to obtain a further £65.

Ray Waller, Hartlepool council's

new Labour leader, wrote to the prosecutors asking why the case was suddenly dropped. The CPS replied that the two witnesses interviewed on the morning of the trial had produced evidence which undermined the case.

Both men have denied changing their evidence to council circles, it is understood, that they were asked whether councillors could claim expenses without the approval of the committee and confirmed that this was possible.

Mr Mandelson was reported to have queried police competence in preparing the case.

**Article proposes Scottish germ weapons**

BY JASON ALLARDICE  
SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Scottish National Party last night distanced itself from one of its senior spokesmen after he appeared to suggest developing chemical and germ warfare capability in an independent Scotland.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart Crawford, the party's deputy defence spokesman, refused to tell the party whether he wrote a pamphlet claiming the SNP should consider such lethal weapons. The comments in the pamphlet, published last year under a pseudonym, have caused embarrassment and anger in nationalist ranks as they prepare their campaign for the Scottish parliament elections in May.

Mr Crawford, who is a Scottish parliament candidate for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, was only named deputy defence spokesman by the SNP leader Alex Salmond 12 days ago.

The Deputy Scottish Secretary, Helen Liddell, said Mr Salmond should waste no time in getting rid of Mr Crawford, who was a tank squadron commander during Operation Desert Storm in the Gulf during 1991. The Defence Secretary, George Robertson, added: "Leaving this man in post would be to officially endorse an utterly naive and profoundly dangerous policy position."

The pamphlet on options for an independent Scottish Defence Force, was published under the name Jack Hawthorn for the Glasgow University Centre for War Studies, where Mr Crawford recently studied.

The author, who claimed to have been privy to recent internal SNP debate, stated: "Ballistic missiles have a utility which the SNP should at least consider. They can carry a wide variety of warheads, including chemical and biological payloads, which can be seen as cheap alternatives to nuclear ones for deterrent purposes."

In a statement issued by the SNP on Mr Crawford's behalf, he said he had never advocated the possession of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

"Academic analysis of defence options is one thing — clear, practical and costed policies as presented now by the SNP are much more important and much more relevant," he said.



Crawford: refused to discuss pamphlet

## Blair will not have Whelan sacked

BY JAMES LANDALE

THE future of the Chancellor's press aide, Charlie Whelan, looked more secure last night after Downing Street backed away from demanding his dismissal over his alleged involvement in Peter Mandelson's downfall.

In a sign that the Prime Minister wants to avoid a fresh confrontation with Gorden Brown and defuse damaging publicity about splits in the Cabinet, Downing Street made clear that Mr Whelan's future was in the hands of Mr Brown.

Mr Whelan returned home to Peckham, southeast London, last night, after spending Christmas and the new year in hiding in Scotland, and is expected to return to his desk at the Treasury this morning.

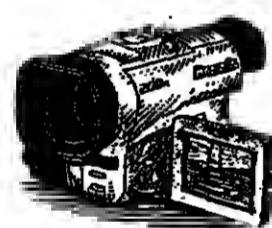
He was accused of leaking details of a £573,000 home loan which Mr Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, secured from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General. Mr Whelan denied the charge. Both ministers subsequently resigned. The Prime Minister has come under pressure from ministers and officials to order Mr Brown to remove Mr Whelan.

Last night as the press aide



Whelan: returned home from holiday last night

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**Prescott tipped to be Dome supremo**

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE campaign by John Prescott to re-establish his position in Government took a step forward yesterday after it emerged that he is poised to replace Peter Mandelson as the Millennium Dome supremo.

The Deputy Prime Minister is a leading contender to become "Dome Secretary" and take on the high-profile role of spearheading the millennium celebrations.

The development comes only days after Mr Prescott unveiled a new alliance with Gordon Brown to call for a return to traditional Labour values of market interventionism.

The move, in an interview last week, was seen as an attempt by Mr Prescott to take advantage of Tony Blair's absence on holiday and the vacuum left by Mr Mandelson's resignation to reassess his authority within Government.

Mr Prescott has always been a keen supporter of the Dome and was a key figure in persuading the Prime Minister to back the project in 1997 when some Cabinet ministers wanted it scrapped.

Government sources yesterday said the reports were "pure speculation", but they did not deny the claims. They added that Mr Prescott had enough on his plate as Secretary of State for the Environment.

But one option circulating at Westminster is for Mr Prescott to split the job with Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Cabinet Office Minister.

The dispute arose after Mr Edmonds

**League tables to show police soft on speeding**

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND STEWART TENDLER

POLICE forces that too often fail to stop and fine speeding motorists will be exposed in proposed new league tables. Ministers planning to cut the number of road deaths are alarmed by huge differences in the way that forces tackle motoring offences.

Speeding is the cause of about 1,200 road deaths out of the annual toll of 3,599. Government figures suggest that a third of police forces has seen a rise in the number of road casualties since 1990.

Ministers want to cut the road-death toll by at least 40 per cent by 2010, and plan to shame the worst areas of the country into taking tougher action. While forces such as Lancashire and Essex have taken a tough line on speeding, some metropolitan forces are accused of turning a blind eye.

Police and local authorities will be forced to present detailed proposals to reduce the

casualty rate and show the effectiveness of their work by detailing prosecution rates and accident levels. Details of casualty reductions, successful prosecutions and the amount spent on traffic policing will be available, allowing tables of the best and worst performers to be drawn up.

Ministers are reluctant to draw direct comparisons between forces on accident rates or prosecutions, because of wide variations in population and types of roads. However, advisers have told ministers that year-to-year accident and prosecution trends within a police force can indicate the success of policing policy. Those could be compared nationally.

Tighter rules on traffic policing come in the wake of a critical report by Colin Smith, the Inspector of Constabulary, in which some police forces were accused of failing to do enough. The report said that

inconsistencies between forces "could discredit the criminal justice system".

Mr Smith complained that in one force, traffic courts were closing down due to a lack of prosecutions, although officers had stopped sufficient offenders. Another force that installed speed cameras had overburdened the local court, and police using radar equipment were "unable to prosecute more blatant offenders".

In large areas of England, casualty rates are rising, yet in Scotland and Wales, which have had bigger increases in car ownership than most English regions, accident rates have fallen. Casualties in Scotland were down by 17 per cent.

Cheshire, has suffered the biggest increase, 24.3 per cent, between 1990 and 1997. Norfolk and the Grampian region led the way in improving records, cutting the number of injuries by 26 per cent.

**Union chief may face picket line**

BY ROLAND WATSON  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN EDMONDS, leader of the GMB union, faces the prospect of a strike among his own staff after firing an official who was trying to instigate an inquiry into the union's pension fund.

A simmering row at the GMB's offices is likely to present Mr Edmonds with the prospect of having to cross a picket line if he wants to reach his office.

The dispute arose after Mr Edmonds sacked the union's head of communications, Tom Condon, earlier this month.

Mr Condon, a former political and industrial journalist, was pressing for an internal investigation into why £2.5 million was taken from the GMB's pension fund in the early 1990s.

Although the money has since been returned, officials believe it may have left about 1,400 pensioners receiving less in retirement than they could have done had the fund been left untouched.

The money was used as part of a bridging loan to the union after a property deal went disastrously wrong. Although Mr Edmonds said the deal, involving a move of headquarters, would be self-financing,

it left the union, which has 700,000 members, £6 million out of pocket.

The dispute has left many GMB officials uneasy, and could lead to an external inquiry into the finances of Britain's fourth-biggest union. It is understood that both the Law Society and the Occupational Pension Regulatory Authority are aware of the details and are preparing to launch separate investigations.

Members of the six-strong chapter of the National Union of Journalists at the GMB's offices in Wimbledon are to vote this month on whether to take industrial action over Mr Condon's dismissal.

**INSPIRING CURVES.**

After 30 years the curved roofs of Manchester's Oxford Road station, which may have inspired the Sydney Opera House, have been rebuilt in a £3m revamp. [www.railtrack.co.uk](http://www.railtrack.co.uk)

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# 'It is a miserable place to die, I am sorry'



The ticket that would have taken Peter Rowe home

**But I had no choice, says Yemeni colonel as he takes Daniel McGroarty to scene of tourists' bloody deaths**

A RETURN rail ticket from Gatwick, trodden into the dust of a barren plateau, left a poignant reminder yesterday of the holidaymakers whose trip to Yemen ended in deadly confrontation.

A bloodsoaked handkerchief beneath a small mound of black rocks provided more grim evidence that four of the tourists would not be returning to their loved ones.

Yemeni army officers yesterday took *The Times* to the bleak volcanic crater where they fought a gunbattle with the Islamic kidnappers who held the 16 Western holidaymakers.

The colonel who led the much-criticised rescue mission shook his head and said: "This is a miserable place to die and I am sorry for the innocent blood, but I had no other choice."

Gazing around where the travellers were forced to stand, their hands raised, as human shields, it is obvious there was nowhere for them to hide when the gunfire began.

Colonel Mohammed Salah Ali pointed with his Kalashnikov rifle to the pile of rocks he built beside a desert track where the first hostage, Margaret Whitehouse, was killed trying to help Andrew Thirsk, who was also to die in the chaotic shooting.

The only shelter, 30 metres away, was a low ridge of boulders which the kidnappers covered behind as they forced these two to stand for half an hour with three other frightened hostages in full view of the approaching soldiers. On this parched stretch of open ground the helpless victims could be seen from more than two kilometres away.

Picking your way between the jagged rocks, what is puzzling is how most hostages were not killed in the fusillade. Even more curious is how up to 13 kidnappers escaped across such exposed land.

Colonel Ali does not answer that, preferring to stick to the official Yemeni account that his men did not attack until the kidnappers began executing their hostages. This is at odds with the survivors' recollections. They say that Mr Thirsk, the first to be hit, was caught in an exchange of automatic fire.

It is impossible to tell from

the few spent bullet cases in the dirt who fired first as both sides use the same weapons. The bloodstained handkerchief that Mrs Whitehouse, a 33-year-old Hampshire teacher, used to staunch the fatal wounds of the 25-year-old Australian accountant is blackened by the scorching sun. Ten feet away a slab of moldering dates which the hostages were given for their last meal are wrapped in polythene and half-buried by another cairn that shows where one of the kidnappers, an Egyptian teacher who trained the Islamic terrorists, was shot dead.

The colonel moved half a mile across the Al-Ghanfar plateau to where his armed escort tramps over the rail ticket that Peter Rowe would have used to get home to Durham today. A patch of dried blood from where the 60-year-old university lecturer received multiple gunshot wounds is matted with sand.

His widow, Claire Marston, 43, who was wounded, was yesterday well enough to fly home with the American hostage, Margaret Thompson. Flanked by soldiers as she left,



Cairns mark where tourists and kidnappers fell. On the left is where Margaret Whitehouse and Andrew Thirsk were hit. A Yemeni soldier crouches where an Egyptian terrorist was hit

## Yard seeks to question terrorist

**Mystery over the kidnap leader whose gang had no hiding place**

SCOTLAND YARD and the ten-strong FBI team in Yemen are seeking to interview the kidnap leader, Abu Hassan, who knows this Al-Ghanfar plain

well enough to find his links with other terrorist groups in the region.

The bearded Hassan, who the authorities say is 28 but who looks much older, is now manacled in prison in Zinjibar, 115 miles from the scene of the shooting. The authorities would prefer Hassan convicted and executed by the end of this week, although western investigators have told the Yemeni government that they need to discover if his Al-Jihad group are funded and trained by the Saudi billionaire, Osama bin Laden.

Hassan is known to have fought with the Mujahidin against the Russians in Afghanistan, where bin Laden has his base, and where the Saudi master-terrorist planned the bomb attacks on two US embassies in East Africa last year. Local trackers who know this Al-Ghanfar plain point to how Hassan clearly had little idea how to hide or protect his hostages while he was bartering for the release of Al-Jihad comrades arrested in Yemen before Christmas.

From the start of this kidnap, Hassan and at least 18 other gunmen were clearly seen by tribesmen and local traders as they drove their hostages in a convoy of stolen vehicles to a partially shaded desert clearing used by camel and goat herders. Locals traders who sold them bottled water and freshly baked bread on the day of the kidnap say that they knew most of the gang, including Saad Muhammad Ali Atif and Ahmed Muhammad Ali Atif, two brothers arrested with

Hassan, as well as the identities of the three kidnappers who were killed.

Hathemi Aishal, a tribal leader who was used as go-between with the Al-Jihad group, points to the empty biscuit packets and soft drinks he brought for the hostages two hours before the shoot-out. The elderly negotiator said: "Hassan only wanted six of his people freed from prison. He made no threats to the hostages but they would not let me see them. They told me that if I came back, I would be killed."

He knew one of the terrorists who was shot. Ali Al Khadar el Haj, 25, worked as a taxi driver in the nearest village, Kokab, 1½ miles away. "Hassan was not some big terrorist. Where did he expect to hide?" he asked, pointing to how the army had surrounded the entire area within hours of the kidnap.



Claire Marston leaving hospital in Yemen yesterday for the flight home to Britain. She was flanked by armed guards

## Ernie Wise 'stable' after heart attacks

BY MICHAEL HARVEY



Ernie Wise already frail due to a series of strokes

a recent BBC poll, Morecambe and Wise, spent three weeks in intensive care. But he is now well enough to be moved to a private room.

He fell ill at his winter holiday home in Florida just days after celebrating his birthday on November 27.

His wife Doreen, 68, said: "I didn't think he was going to make Christmas but, bless him, he did. He's extremely weak, in what you'd describe as a fragile condition, but he's holding his own — the doctors say he's stable."

The entertainer's health has been a concern for some time. He has suffered a series of strokes over the last five years, which have left him in extreme physical health.

The funnyman with the famously short, fat, hairy legs was on the receiving end of the comic genius of Eric Morecambe, who died of a heart attack in 1984, for four decades.

Their Christmas specials became television classics and their 1977 show attracted 27.5 million viewers, the biggest audience for a programme shown on a single channel. In

## £2m book deal puts Hornby top of league

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

NICK HORNBY, author of the football fan's memoir *Fever Pitch*, is switching publishers in a transfer worth nearly £2 million. The two novel deal for Penguin puts the 41-year-old former teacher at the top of the superleague of British literary authors.

Penguin won against competition from Fourth Estate, Random House and Macmillan Picador. The first new novel, yet to be written, is to be published next year.

Hornby has become a phenomenon, with three international bestsellers from his first three books, *Fever Pitch*, *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy*. *Fever Pitch* was turned into a film starring Colin Firth and last year he sold the film rights for *About a Boy* for £1.8 million. *High Fidelity* is being adapted by Disney's Touchstone Films.

Penguin is confident that the £2 million will be money well spent. Helen Fraser, managing director, said: "Advances are related to what people's books actually sell. We are very pleased at this deal."

Hornby, leaving Collance just as it is being taken over by the Orion Group, which owns Weidenfeld & Nicolson. He had a particularly strong working relationship with his Collance editor, Liz Knights.



Hornby: "Time for a change" he said

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
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# RUC net closes in on Omagh killers

The bombers' names are known. Now police seek the final pieces of evidence, reports Martin Fletcher

POLICE have identified half a dozen of those responsible for the Omagh bomb. Detective Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson said: "The rest come from the border counties of Armagh, Monaghan and Louth, where the Real IRA, the breakaway terrorist group, is based."

"At least one comes from the vicinity of the town," Detective Chief Superintendent Eric Anderson said. "The rest come from the border counties of Armagh, Monaghan and Louth, where the Real IRA, the breakaway terrorist group, is based."

"We have a fair idea who did it. We probably know about half a dozen who were involved," Mr Anderson said. "We are trying to work out their actual roles."

"The problem is producing a case that convicts them. It's one thing to know who did it, and another to produce evidence to put them away."

Mr Anderson, a large and genial family man of 52, knows that problem better than anyone. During 32 years

in the RUC he has investigated some 300 murders, terrorist and otherwise. His first big case was the 1978 Warrenpoint massacre, when the IRA killed 18 soldiers with two bombs detonated from across Carrigford Lough in the Irish Republic. He spent 18 months investigating and readily identifies the two bombers.

One was Brendan Burns, who later blew himself up while building a bomb in Crossmaglen. The other's name cannot be published because he is still free.

"I know ten people who were directly involved in it," Mr Anderson said. "He was unable to bring any to court, not least because the Irish police were much less co-operative in those days."

By contrast, it took him barely a week to arrest four loyalist gunmen who burst into the Rising Sun bar in the village of Greysteel on Halloween in 1993, killing seven customers.

Mr Anderson's team was able to recover everything involved, from the weapons to the B&Q oil roll recording the gunman's purchase of gloves and balaclavas, enabling a watertight prosecution.

The case of which he is proudest concerned the 1979 Dunmurry train bomb, when three men died after it exploded prematurely. By conducting 15 explosions inside a rail-

way carriage, forensic scientists proved that a passenger claiming £500,000 compensation was one of the bombers.

But terrorists seldom break, conclusive scientific evidence is rare and nearly 2,000 of the 3,200 killings of the Troubles remain unresolved.

Terrorists are trained in anti-interrogation techniques, said Mr Anderson. They are "forensically-aware", washing their clothes, taking showers and burning cars to destroy evidence. Witnesses are intimidated. Few people in the paramilitaries' immediate communities readily help the police.

In the Omagh investigation, Mr Anderson appears close to a breakthrough. Last month he held a press conference to appeal to republicans in particular for "bits and pieces to fill in the missing gaps". That and ITV's *Most Wanted* programme a week later were "very helpful indeed".

He is optimistic but cautions that "it's a long, protracted process involving many avenues of investigation, and we're not there yet".



Optimistic Det Chief Supt Eric Anderson



Anna Kennedy and her sons Angelo and Patrick outside the school that Hillingdon Council has leased to her charity.

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## Parents set up school for autistic sons

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE parents of two autistic children, one of whom has been turned away from 26 schools, will receive the keys to a disused school tomorrow to establish the first centre of its type for pupils with special educational needs.

Anne and Sean Kennedy have remortgaged their home in Hillingdon, northwest London, and raised £64,000 to set up a school catering for 63 children. A fellow campaigner, Alex Honeysett, whose 33-year-old son spent ten years in mental institutions after psychologists failed to diagnose autism, is giving up his job to manage the project.

Hillingdon Council agreed to lease the primary school to a charity founded by the Kennedys after being unable to provide full-time education for autistic children in the borough.

Eight-year-old Patrick Kennedy and his brother Angelo, five, receive only five hours of home tuition a week.

Mrs Kennedy said: "Children who are only mildly autistic can manage in mainstream schools and severe cases are given residential treatment, but those in the middle are often left with nothing. The last school we approached had 55 applications for five places and we lost out because priority was given to children living nearby. Some are travelling three hours a day to get an education."

Patrick was diagnosed as suffering from Asperger's syndrome at the age of four, but the family was not notified. Mrs Kennedy said: "We endured three years of kicking and screaming every morning because he could not cope with mainstream school."

Both brothers will attend the new school, which will open in September if a suitable head teacher can be recruited in time. There will be 14 places initially, building up to the full compliment of 63 after three years.

The project is being backed by the National Autistic Society, and a local charity has offered classroom furniture and practical help to bring down the estimated £627,000 refurbishment costs.

Mrs Kennedy said: "We have received fantastic support, but we know we have a lot of hard work ahead of us. There is only one school in the country like the one we are planning and that does not cater for young children, so there certainly will be a demand for places."

Local authorities will pay £27,000 a year to send children to the new school. But with residential places often costing more than £100,000, there should still be savings to be made.

The charity, HACS, is operating from the Kennedy's home at 22 Cherry Grove, Hillingdon, UB8 3ET.

## Poet denies spy role for RAF in Vietnam war

BY SUSIE STEINER

PAM AYRES yesterday challenged claims that she had lived a secret life as a spy, saying that her postwar role in the RAF had been a minor one.

Reports of Ms Ayres's military exploits appeared in *The Sunday Telegraph*, which recently rebuffed claims that its editor, Dominic Lawson, had worked as a spy.

Ms Ayres, one of Britain's best-loved poets, hit back at claims that she worked at intelligence bases in Britain and the Far East during several military conflicts, including the Vietnam war.

Ms Ayres said that she had enlisted with the RAF in 1965 from a desire to travel. She said in a statement yesterday: "I am astounded by this report. When I spoke to their reporter I was conscious of the requirement of the Official Secrets Act and gave the briefest of interviews. I plotted aerial photography — a job that requires six weeks' initial training — nothing more than that."

"I was not involved in the Vietnam war. The report attaches importance to my role that it simply did not have and it's absurd to suggest otherwise."

The report follows disclosures last November that the novelist and feminist Fay Web



Ayres said that she was astounded by reports

she had worked for a secret unit to MI6 during the 1950s. Ms Ayres spent four years with the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre. She was stationed at RAF Brampton in Cambridgeshire until 1967, when she transferred to the Singapore.

An MOD spokesman yesterday said that Ms Ayres's role would have involved analysing photographs taken by RAF reconnaissance aircraft to ascertain enemy capabilities. The spokesman added: "It depends what you would call a spy. It's a term that's applied loosely to a lot of things. Obviously there's a security process that you have to go through in order to be suitable for that sort of work."

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Pupils  
docusoap  
bite back  
of Carey's  
in the pew

# Pupils given anti-menningitis pills

**'Kissing bug'**  
claims lives of  
two children  
from the same  
school. Michael  
Hornsey writes

EVERY pupil at a school where two teenagers died of meningitis after attending a Christmas party were called in yesterday to receive antibiotics to prevent the disease spreading.

All 1,750 children at Wath Comprehensive near Rotherham in South Yorkshire, William Hague's old school, were given the antibiotics in tablet form.

The precaution was taken after the deaths on New Year's Eve of 14-year-old Claire Wilkinson and 15-year-old boy Adam Rawson, both pupils at the school. The children will receive injections today. A helpline for worried parents has been set up by the local health authority.

The two teenagers who died, Claire Wilkinson and Adam Rawson, were friends and it is thought the pair may have passed the illness to one another after kissing at a Christmas party. The school itself is not thought to have been the source of the outbreak.

The tragedy was made worse because Claire had to be turned away from hospitals in



Pupils wait outside Wath comprehensive school yesterday to be given antibiotic pills after two classmates — Claire Wilkinson and Adam Rawson, below — died of meningitis

South Yorkshire because there were no beds available in intensive care units.

She was eventually taken to a hospital in Nottingham, 40 miles away, after a seven-hour wait at the Rotherham General Hospital. Claire's mother, Carole Wilkinson, said: "I am absolutely devastated. I can't believe that in a civilised country there were no beds available for a seriously ill child."

Explaining the decision to move Claire, a hospital spokesman said: "She was taken to Rotherham General, but during her treatment the decision will have been made that the patient needed specialist paediatric intensive care unit facilities. Not everyone suffering from meningitis would need that sort of treatment."

"What happened then was

that Sheffield was approached and that was found to be full. Nottingham was then approached and they did have a bed available."

A spokesman for the National Meningitis Trust warned that at this time of year the disease is at its most prevalent because of increased social interaction. Last year there were 2,600 cases of the disease, resulting in 200 deaths.

"We do see a big increase in cases during November and

December and so it is important that people are aware of the symptoms and seek medical attention immediately."

"People are more at risk at this time of year because they tend to be in closer contact with others. One in ten of us carries the bacteria which cause the illness, but it is important to remember that meningitis is still a very difficult disease to catch."

"We certainly don't want to suggest people avoid social in-

teraction at Christmas. It is after all how people build up resistance to illnesses."

Teenagers are particularly at risk because they do tend to have increased social contact, but I would stress that it is a difficult bacterium to pass on and it is rare that more than one pupil at a school would get the disease."

Health official have set up the following helplines for parents: 0345 533118, 0145 4413344 and 01709 302070.



**Children's centre takes more inmates**

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

RESTRICTIONS on the number of inmates in Britain's first secure institution for children, which saw serious violence last summer, are to be relaxed.

From today there will be 30 young offenders at the Medway Secure Training Centre at Rochester, Kent — up from the limit of 25 set by the Home Office in November. That still leaves it ten below capacity.

The Social Services Inspectorate is expected to be severely critical of the management in a report to be published shortly. In July, there was rioting at the privately run centre for persistent young offenders aged 13 to 15, three months after it opened. Inmates armed with metal poles and sticks filled with snooker balls ransacked parts of the centre. Police in riot gear had to be called.

Rebound, the Group 4 subsidiary which runs the centre, said: "We would like to go back up to 40 places, but the Home Office is satisfied that progress is being made."

## TV docusoap stars bite back

By ALEX O'CONNELL

A GROUP of docusoap stars are accusing television producers of wrecking their lives after experiencing instant fame.

Keith Cooper, who was director of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House when he featured in *The House*, claims to have been damaged by the way he was portrayed in the 1996 BBC2 fly-on-the-wall documentary.

He said: "The camera got me 180 degrees wrong; absolutely, totally wrong. My professional credibility was affected by what people saw on television."

David Smith, the chef from *Hotel*, made famous by his swearing at the Adelphi in Liverpool, said: "They stitched me up. They made a lot of money out of *Fawlty Towers*, so they thought they'd get a real live version. So they picked us."

Neil Howarth, an aspiring pop star who featured in *Made In Manchester*, believes that his television performance stalled his career. He said: "It opened a lot of doors but it slammed shut a hell of a lot of others."

Mr Howarth claims that he told by the BBC directors that he was going to be portrayed in a bad light for the first two episodes but that he would be redeemed in the third. He

said: "When it came to the third episode there were legal problems, so they shelved it."

The disclosures come in a BBC documentary about fly-on-the-wall series, *Life After Docu Soap*, which will begin on Sunday at 10.30pm.

In spite of criticisms, the docusoap genre has become a fast-track route to success. Through her appearance in *Lakesiders*, Emma Boundy, 24, has signed a deal with EMI and released an album.

Before her came Jane McDonald, the cabaret singer from *The Cruise*, who performed at the Royal Variety Performance this year and has made a chart-topping album.

Max Clifford, the PR agent, said: "I am sure lots of people, particularly the extroverts, will be doing everything they can to get themselves involved in any documentary."

Trude Mostue, star of *Vets in Practice*, said: "If you get the wrong producer, they can cut and paste as they like."

Jeremy Spake, from *Airport*, the outspoken groundsmen with Aeroflot, is happy with his participation. He said: "I did a book, there are always some spin-offs." He is now making a programme about his grandmother, who was an interpreter for Stalin.



David Smith, left, from *Hotel*, and Keith Cooper, of *The House*, feel let down by the television producers involved

## Secret of Carey's man in the pew

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

The Archbishop of Canterbury launches a campaign today to make churches more welcoming, based on his son Andrew's experiences in a new parish.

Dr George Carey condemns "unwelcoming, cold, drab and dreary" churches in an introduction to the book *New Era, New Church?* which describes the unhappy experiences of Andrew and Helen, a mid-30s couple moving into a new area. It omits to mention that Andrew is Dr Carey's son, a journalist who helped to produce the book.

The newcomers first try their nearest church. "They were greeted at the door by an unsmiling steward," says the book. "No one sat near An-

drew and Helen. No one said a word to them. As they left at the end of the service, the vicar — locked in conversation with a regular member of the congregation — rather limply shook their hands and thanked them for coming."

Their verdict: "At least we had the benefit of anonymity!"

The next Sunday the couple try a church half 100 yards along. This time the welcome is too enthusiastic and stinging. "As they left, they had to walk the gauntlet of smiling faces, encounter a barrage of questions, a plethora of outstretched hands — and even hugs!"

*New Era, New Church?* by Steve Chalke with Sue Radford (Harper Collins, £8.99)

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## THE EURO GOES TO MARKET

# Bankers flirt with Bonn masters

**Roger Boyes says the austere Bundesbank is now forced to play political games**

A SERIES of articles in this newspaper has been depicting the new continental fault-lines: the tension between the city and the country, between north and south. In most cases the euro has not so much created these divisions as highlighted them, thrown them into relief.

One would expect even Germany's consensus-based political system — with its in-built aversion to conflict — to register these problems. So far, however, Germany's ruling caste sees the euro only as a form of necessary modernisation and a way of muffling conflict with suspicious neighbours.

There seems to be no political capital to be made out of questioning the euro. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, regarded the euro a year ago as "a sickly, premature

child" and favoured delay rather than a softening of the entry criteria for economic and monetary union (EMU). Now he regards the euro as a "magnificent opportunity for Germany".

Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, also disliked the Maastricht treaty and managed to straddle the contradictions — rejecting the EMU entry criteria but supporting the euro. Even public opinion has swung the way of the euro, with a narrow majority in favour of it for the first time.

Helmut Kohl's cynical assumption that the Germans would not love but would accept the euro once

politicians made it seem unavoidable — was broadly correct. The euro played little or no role in the decisive phase of the German elections.

Perhaps the most damaging long-term aspect of the Maastricht process was this contempt for public opinion. It has sapped the trust of Germans in their political class. The rapid end to Herr Schröder's governing honeymoon is a symptom of this.

The euro may have been neutered but it would be wrong to assume that it will be out of the political frame in Germany permanently. The danger phase begins now in

the period between the technical introduction of the euro and the summer of 2002 when it replaces the mark in daily transactions. That will be the true turning point for Germans and it will come only three months before the next general election.

The euro will be the Christian Democrats' way of distancing themselves from Herr Kohl. Wolfgang Schäuble, the head of the party, was the co-author four years ago of a strategy paper calling for a "hard-core" Europe. Fast integrators could leave countries like Italy behind. The Italians and indeed the British, were less than enthusiastic. Now Herr Schäuble — flanked by Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister — can position the party as a defender of strict fiscal discipline within euroland. As the

Bundesbank loses power, so it is destined to become more politicised. Rarely in its modern history have so many members of the bank's directorate so openly flirted with the Government.

The euro thus ushers in the politics of resentment. Herr Schröder — or rather his key thinker Bodo Hommel — senses that this will be an emotional period, full of disappointment for those many Germans with pumped-up expectations. And so he intends to craft a new patriotism, a "we-feeling" as Herr Hommel calls it. A self-aware Germany, proud of its achievements, does not need to look to Europe for miracles.

In the breathing space between the virtual euro and the real in-your-pocket euro, Germany will seek to reposition itself within Europe. It will be a busy time, full of misunderstandings and unsettling for the neighbours.



Donnelly: "Quietly elated by weekend"

## Sterling effort pays off

A four-day diary of conversion: Nick Donnelly, EMU conversion director for Barclays Capital

Thursday, Dec 31, 1998 Arrived at work 7am. Spent morning checking plans. Then went to trading floor to see locking rates come. Next two hours spent explaining plans to representative of European finance ministry (unnamed) observing impact on London.

3pm: Returned to Canary Wharf control and communications centre to go

### DIARY

through final preparations. More than 250 timed milestones, set as monitor of progress, checked round clock by ten staff on shift with hourly reports given to senior executives.

6pm: Computers set to complete end-of-year accounts, ran through the night.

Friday, January 1, 1999 Computers began work at about 7am, crunching numbers to be checked by 250 people. Government and corporate bonds, equities and futures translated into euros. About 17 action plans used for different products. Home to central London flat by 8pm.

Saturday, January 2, 1999 7am back in office. Traders began familiarising themselves with new numbers. Home 9pm.

Sunday, January 3, 1999 In early. More traders in but all gone by 3pm. Group conference at 7pm. Go home about 9pm, "quietly elated".

Trading begins, page 48



A "stress ball" printed with a monetary union helpline lies on a keyboard at Barclays Capital on the eve of the start of worldwide euro trading

## Cautious City expects slow start to trade

By SUEK STEINER

### LONDON

LONDON'S financial markets were expected to get off to a slow start today as traders get to grips with the euro and the new currency begins to make an impact on world trade.

Systems and conversion staff at 600 banks and financial institutions have spent collectively more than 300,000 hours preparing for the big moment. It was the largest operation the City had ever launched.

Barclays Capital yesterday handed out 650 specially-made "stress balls" to each of its traders to help them through the first nerve-racking days of euro-dealing. "They have got small silicone globules inside and you can crunch them in your hand as a stress reliever," said Nick Donnelly, EMU conversion director at Barclays Capital. The balls are printed with support hotline numbers.

Trading in the euro could only begin after an intensive three-day preparation period in which billions of pounds worth of assets were converted

from the old European currencies into the euro.

An estimated 30,000 City staff forfeited their New Year break to prepare banks for monetary union. Most banks said they were ready for a smooth first day's trading. A spokesman for NatWest said:

"Tomorrow will be the acid test, but we believe everything will go swimmingly."

Peter Letley, managing director of business operations for HSBC investment bank, said yesterday: "Most people have now finished working and those that are still in are on schedule. We are not anticipating any problems when we begin trading tomorrow."

Once trading has settled to a comfortable hum, staff in the Square Mile, who missed out on New Year's Eve, will do their best to make up for it. "We are planning to have a party themed around the 11 countries of monetary union, with national food and drink from each," said a spokesman for Barclays Capital.

"I don't know that we'd

want Finnish wine, but you could have flavoured vodkas from Finland, tapas from Spain, Belgian beer, that sort of thing. We were going to make staff dress in lederhosen, but we thought that

would be unfair". Barclays Capital said work done over the new year would be taken into account in bonus appraisals, while other banks were expected to make lump sum payments. Merrill Lynch said its

staff "would not go unrewarded" while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson confirmed it would be making "special payments to its staff".

"We will be having some sort of celebratory party," said

a spokesman for Dresdner. "We don't know what the details are yet because we thought it was tempting fate."

One insider warned that this year's bonuses would "push up sums demanded for

working over the millennium. "I think we will have to double whatever we pay them this year when it comes to next year," he said.

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# Scots eager to test their new-found power

By MAGNUS LINKLATER

IN FOUR months' time Scots will go to the polls to change the way the country has been run for 292 years. They still can't quite believe it is happening. Nor do they know what will come of it all. But, whatever doubts there may be elsewhere — particularly in England — about the wisdom of this great constitutional adventure, the Scots themselves show no sign of wavering. If anything, enthusiasm for change has hardened.

Every poll reveals that they have, over the past few months of intensive political activity, developed a strong sense of their own Scottishness, a conviction that the parliament they are about to elect will deliver a new beginning, and a belief that it will be better than the one that has run their affairs from further south. For some, those heightened expectations are a dan-

gerous commodity. The remit of a Scottish parliament may be wide, its delegated powers and its ability to legislate far-reaching, but it will move within the same budgetary constraints as it ever did. There will be no extra funding, no loosening of the Treasury purse strings. The tax-raising powers it has been given are limited and will not be used at least within the first term of the parliament.

How then will the expectations be met? One theory runs that the disappointment factor will play straight into the hands of the Scottish Nationalists. Alex Salmond, their leader, has pledged his party to back the new parliament, to ensure that it is a success and that it delivers sensible policies. But right now he can afford to do so, secure in the knowledge that, by his calculation, he cannot lose: if the parliament be-

**SCOTLAND  
19 99**  
YEAR OF DESTINY

gins to fall victim to recrimination and schism, then he will be in a position to say: how much better things could be done in an independent Scotland. If, on the other hand, it is a modest success, he can argue: how much better it would be in an independent Scotland.

This is Labour's nightmare: a narrow election victory under the additional-member voting system dictates an alliance, probably with the Liberal Democrats. An apparently supportive SNP nevertheless conducts a steadily undermining opposi-

**Times writers test the mood of a country that is preparing for its first parliament in 300 years**

tion strategy which, in four years' time, presents a strong alternative to the electorate. With events drifting away from the Government in Westminster, and factionalism at home, the nation would be heading straight into the uncharted and choppy waters of separation.

That, however, is just a little too simplistic. It presumes a passive electorate, a self-assured nationalist party, and a Labour Party frozen like a rabbit confronted by the SNP stoat. There are still four months to go in what will be a fascinating and un-

predictable election campaign. The Nationalists are still perceived very much as a one-man band; they will have to convince voters that they have strength in depth if they are to win genuine support. Their economic policies, still sketchy, will be tested to destruction by the opposition parties. And meanwhile Labour is climbing back in the polls. Analysis of the most recent surveys suggest that when it comes to the second choice on the ballot paper — voters will be required to opt for parties as well as for individual candidates — Labour is doing far better than the SNP.

This suggests that the Scottish electorate is not yet prepared to abandon its traditional reliance on Labour as its preferred choice to govern the country. It has been on trial over the past few months but it has not yet been pronounced guilty. On this analysis it will come home as the majority party. What happens then will be

critical. Four years is not a long time in which to ensure the smooth running of a new parliament, deliver enough to convince Scots that it has been worth voting for but not so much that it arouses the hostility of Westminster. A steady hand on the tiller will be a prime requirement. In Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, Labour seems to have just that. There have been signs recently that Mr Dewar, far from weakening under the Nationalists as said, has discovered a new confidence.

He thinks that he is going to do well, he thinks that the parliament can work and he believes that he can handle the worst the SNP can throw at him. Between the punchy demagogue Salmond and the eccentric ascetic Dewar, the fate of Scotland and the constitutional future of the UK will be determined.

Tim Holmes page 20



Opening W  
the oute

## Cue for a fresh cast of political hopefuls

### THE NEW FACES

By JASON ALLARDYCE, Scottish Political Reporter

DONNIE'S the dark, rugged pop star who's put his rock'n'roll lifestyle behind him. Tasmania's ambitious young actress already known to millions but seeking a new role. Duncan is a Harvard man tipped to one day lead his country, while Tavish sometimes pretends to be a Viking.

They could be the cast of a daytime soap opera and will certainly be making lots of television appearances in the near future. They are unlikely to generate as much viewer interest as Vera Duckworth or Grant Mitchell, however — unless the young stars of Scotland's new parliament become embroiled in sex scandals, skulduggery or corruption. (Then again, this is politics.)

The creation of the Holyrood administration brings with it 129 vacancies in Scottish party politics and an opportunity for a generation of young hopefuls. Among them is Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, 27, above, a second-generation Asian Scot actress who wants to abandon Bollywood for Holyrood.

She became active in the Scottish Tories after last year's general election, left the party without a single MP in Scotland. Her latest drama role, shot in Scotland, will be seen by up to three billion

Asian viewers around the world. She is also a qualified lawyer and a mother, and speaks five languages.

An admirer of Baroness Thatcher, she has politics in her blood. Her father, Mo Rizvi, was the first Asian to become a regional councillor in Scotland, winning a seat in the Lothians in 1986.

"I was spanked while I campaigned for my father because we were Tories. But that is part of the course," she said. "Conservatism and Islam have very similar values of enterprise, where you get up and do what you can for yourself and respect your elders and family."

Ms Ahmed-Sheikh stands little chance of preventing the Scottish National Party taking the Glasgow Govan seat for which she is standing but she should go through thanks to proportional representation.

Donnie Munro, below, is known to hundreds of thousands of fans as the former frontman of Runrig, the Gaelic rock band. Now the man who has four gold albums to his name is singing to Labour's tune and is confident.

Perhaps the biggest name to watch is Duncan Hamilton, above, the 20-something tipped in some quarters to be the next SNP leader, and liked to the present incumbent, Alex Salmond, and to Tony Blair. Mr Hamilton, who

works for Mike Russell, SNP chief executive, has a first-class honours degree and won a scholarship to Harvard. He has been known to work until 4am at the SNP headquarters.

The sharply dressed 24-year-old son of the Manse, whose body language comes from the pulpit, is a member of what has become known as the nat pack. This is the band of young turks who have assumed positions of power around the SNP leader.

Tavish Scott, above, is also tipped to lead his party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats. The 33-year-old Shetlander, who is preparing to take part in the annual Viking fire festival this month, is close geographically and philosophically to his party leader, Jim Wallace, who represents Shetland and Orkney at Westminster.

Mr Scott, a farmer, married with two young children, was Mr Wallace's assistant while he was chief whip in 1989. He headed the 1992 election communications team before returning to Bressay to become a councillor and party transport spokesman. Mr Scott, who is contesting Shetland Holyrood, will fight for the home rule settlement to be altered to include devolution on issues such as abortion and euthanasia.



New year, new hope: fireworks over Edinburgh Castle as Scots await the first foot in parliament

### THE ROAD TO DEVOLUTION

1928 National Party of Scotland formed to campaign for Scottish parliament. Later merges with Scottish Party to form Scottish National Party

1945 Robert McIntyre becomes first SNP MP after Motherwell by-election but loses seat weeks later at general election

1947 Non-political Scottish Convention calls national assembly with 600 delegates. Labour and Conservatives support limited devolution in principle

1967 Winnie Ewing wins Hamilton for SNP

1972 Discovery of North Sea oil. Nationalists argue that Scotland could comfortably afford independence

1974 Scotland elects 11 SNP MPs as party's vote peaks at 30 per cent

1978 MPs narrowly back Labour Bill for Scottish and Welsh devolution, subject to 40 per cent voting yes in a referendum

1979 Scots vote yes but in insufficient numbers for 40 per cent requirement. Thatcher denies what John Smith later calls "settled will" of Scottish people

1987 Margaret Thatcher comfortably wins general election in England but loses 11 of 21 Scottish MPs as Scots voters reject right-wing programme and poll tax, initiated in Scotland

1989 Convention of Scottish Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs and community groups, boycotted by SNP, begins work on blueprint for devolution

1992 John Major wins general election. Home rule marches attract up to 5,000 people protesting that Government has no mandate to govern Scotland

1995 Roseanna Cunningham captures "safe" Tory seat of Perth and Kinross for SNP. Convention launches proposals for parliament with tax-raising powers

1996 Labour fails electoral vulnerability on tax and says another referendum must be held before a Labour government delivers Scottish parliament

1997 Tories without single Scottish MP after general election. Devolution yes campaign unites Labour, Lib Dems and SNP. Overwhelming vote for Edinburgh parliament with tax powers

1998 Scotland Act makes it to statute books, with elections to be held on May 6. SNP poll surge puts it only marginally behind Labour. Majority in some polls back independence

## Shock waves from a cultural revolution

THE ARTS renaissance that is flourishing in Scotland began long before the devolution referendum. During two general elections, as politicians squabbled about the benefits of home rule, writers, musicians and actors focused their energies on creating a new cultural identity.

Outsiders may equate the Scottish arts scene with the Edinburgh Festival. In truth, the theatres, art galleries and concert halls across Scotland have never been busier providing a showcase for a plethora of home-grown talent.

"I feel in some way that devolution and the political advances came about because of the arts 'revival,'" Barclay Price, the deputy director of the Scottish Arts Council, said. "The country was feeling self-confident when it voted for devolution and the healthy arts scene played a part in creating that feeling."

For several years the arts revival was conducted as if it was a Scottish secret. Writers including Irvine Welsh, James Kelman and A.L. Kennedy were eulogised and sold well at home but their books gathered dust on bookstore shelves elsewhere. It was not until Kelman won the 1994 Booker Prize with *How Late It Was, How Late* that readers outside Scotland took more notice of the new generation of Scottish authors. Now Scottish writing is considered trendy. London-based publishing houses are signing up names such as Al-

ice Thompson, Alan Warner and Duncan McLean, all literary prize-winners.

Film-makers waving the cultural banner for Scotland are also benefiting from being seen as hip. Before the 1995 success of *Trainspotting*, made by the same team behind the low-budget *Shallow Grave*, a handful of directors were making films in Scotland. Now Scottish Screen, which funds new projects, is inundated with requests from directors all hoping to be the new Danny Boyle.

That is good news for Scottish actors. Robert Carlyle, who starred in *Trainspotting* and *The Full Monty*, divides his time between projects abroad and work in Scotland, including the BBC drama series *Looking For Jo Jo*, which was based in Edinburgh. Peter Mullan won the Cannes Festival best-actor prize in May for *My Name Is Joe*, about a recovering Glaswegian alcoholic.

In music, the surge of cultural energy has spawned a new generation of bands, among them Bis, Idlewild, Texas, the Supernaturals and Primal Scream. In classical music, James McMillan, a contemporary composer, has emerged as a major voice. Retrospectives of his work have been

performed at the Edinburgh Festival and in London while another Scot, Evelyn Glennie, has taken his percussion concerto *Ven! Ven!* Emmanuel on a world tour.

The defining characteristic of the new wave of artists is that they have a fresh outlook with no desire to cling to the kitch world of tartan and heather. Ewan McGregor, de facto leader of the new arts pack, wears a kilt but would never be persuaded to appear on a Haggis show alongside White Heather Club singers. Sheila Murray, a Glasgow-based member of the British Council and Scotland's international arts officer, said: "Scotland has always been vibrant and looking to the international market. Devolution has not caused the upsurge but it will probably fuel confidence especially if the parliament has the foresight to use the arts as Scotland's calling card abroad. The arts community is very vocal. It will not give politicians an easy ride if they are not an integral part of the new order."

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# Bevin told Perón: hands off Falklands

Anti-British agitation brought threat of conflict three decades before invasion, reports Mark Henderson

ERNEST BEVIN formally warned Argentina to keep its hands off the Falkland Islands or risk war with Britain, documents released under the 50-year rule have shown.

The Labour Foreign Secretary told his Argentine counterpart at a meeting in 1948 that Britain would not tolerate any attempt to seize the Falklands.

The warning to Juan Atilio Bramuglia followed intense anti-British agitation in Argentina, which diplomats feared was being whipped up by the populist Government of President Juan Perón to press its claim to the Falklands and other British possessions in the South Atlantic and Antarctic.

"I thought it right to tell Dr Bramuglia that if any attack were made on the Falkland Islands we should defend ourselves and that there would be hostilities," Bevin wrote after the meeting in London. Bramuglia, he wrote, assured him that Argentina did not want to go to war over the claim.

A detailed Foreign Office briefing paper on Anglo-Argentinian relations, drafted in January 1948 and declassified at the weekend, also hints at the possibility of military action in the region. It notes that



Perón: ordered elaborate naval exercises in region

Perón twice ordered "elaborate naval exercises" to British possessions in Antarctica, which committed "acts of trespass on British territory" by setting up bases on Deception Island and Gamma Island.

These . . . were made the subject of two strongly-worded notes of protest to the Argentine Government in December 1947, and the question of what further action should be taken to defend British interests in the Antarctic is now under consideration," the paper said.

Bevin's intransigence over the Falklands stands in stark contrast to the position of Harold Wilson, who in 1968 held secret talks with Argentina about transferring sovereignty of the islands, according to documents released last week under the 30-year rule. The 1940s

Tension became acute after Reconquest Day on August 12.

## DIPLOMATS TRIED TO SILENCE CRITIC

British diplomats advised *The News Chronicle* not to publish reports from an Irish journalist in Trinidad because he was a "notoriously anti-British Catholic", documents from 1947 reveal. Gary MacEoin found another job as information officer with the Caribbean Commission Secretariat and wrote several articles for other publications criticising British policy in the Caribbean, attacking officials for trying to stop missionaries setting up Catholic schools.

1948, the public holiday marking Argentina's victory over British troops at Buenos Aires in 1806. The occasion was "celebrated with marked pomp and ceremony", Labouchere said, and was "accompanied by the type of effervescent patriotism that has become the peculiar characteristic of the present Perón administration".

A large crowd watched Perón light the "Flame of the Argentine Spirit" in the Plaza de Mayo, after which 15 torches lit from the flame were carried away on Bedford trucks to the provinces.

As the last of the trucks left, Labouchere wrote, "it was announced amidst cheers that it carried the flame that was destined to go to the Falklands and the Antarctic".

Other actions by the Perón Government were also calculated to stir up anger at Britain over the Falklands. Labouchere said, A minister had publicly accepted a businessman's offer of \$100,000 to build an Argentinean school in the islands, and a prefabricated building was made to be transported there to house a fisheries mission.

The Foreign Office's contemptuous attitude towards Argentina's posturing in the South Atlantic is illustrated by a handwritten note on the cover of one of the documents, inviting an official to "glance at the latest instalment of nonsense from the Argentine".



Ernest Bevin: gave stern warning, though aides dismissed Argentinian actions as nonsense

## Thirty opt for spartan life

BY JASON ALLARDYCE

ONE of Scotland's most beautiful but remote Hebridean islands might soon offer a spartan home to new inhabitants.

Scottish Natural Heritage, which manages Rum (pop: 19), recently announced that it was so concerned about the falling population that it would seek people to move in. At least 30 have made inquiries. The agency describes Rum, 14

miles from the West Highland mainland, as "a jewel in the crown of conservation management" where red deer flourish. Now man is an endangered species on an island where 400 people lived before the Highland Clearances.

The newcomers will enjoy spectacular scenery and views. But life is not exactly idyllic. The ferry runs four times a

week — weather permitting; there is no mains water or electricity; and there is no shop.

The sole road, a dirt track, does not go round the whole island.

Scottish Natural Heritage wants to attract self-sufficient people but says that the infrastructure cannot support a sudden increase in numbers: the aim is to build up to about 50 residents over ten years.

CARDINAL Basil Hume and the new Anglican Bishop of Liverpool were criticised yesterday after claiming that family life was being jeopardised by people having to work over Christmas.

Interviewed for GMTV's *Sunday Programme*, Cardinal Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, said that, in the interests of family life, City traders should have refused to work over Christmas to prepare for the introduction of the euro and shop staff should also have declined to go in.

Bill Morris, of the Transport and Gener-

al Workers' Union, said that he had started an important debate. He told GMTV: "I think what the Cardinal is saying is — in our quest for competitiveness we must have regard for humanising the workplace and looking after the family."

On the same programme, the Right Rev James Jones urged employers to take more account of the family. He said: "I think the way some people are made to work is very destructive of family life and people who lead companies ought to be more responsible."

Supermarkets said that employees had

freedom of choice over whether they worked at Christmas.

Ruth Lea, of the Institute of Directors, said that this was a multicultural society with many non-Christians happy to work over the festive period. She said: "Where is their evidence of people going to work against their will? I feel they are out of touch. There should be balance. People should be committed to work and family."

Bishop Jones also called for tax allowances to be transferable between parents if one decides to stay at home to look after a child.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Man held over death of barmaid

The boyfriend of a barmaid found murdered after a New Year's Eve party was arrested yesterday. Kerry Scott, 24, was last seen walking home with Richard Tate, 29, from the pub where she worked. Her body was discovered on New Year's Day by a relative who became concerned when she failed to answer the telephone.

Miss Scott, who lodged at Waterlooville, Hampshire, had been severely beaten and had other injuries inflicted with a sharp instrument. Police said that Mr Tate, who lives a few doors away, was arrested at 5am at an address in London. They said inquiries into Miss Scott's death were continuing.

### Army inquiry

Military police are investigating the death in custody of a former army doctor suspected of child sex abuse. Paul Morris, 46, who deserted 17 years ago amid similar allegations, died at the military prison in Colchester on December 20.

### Three held

Police arrested three Gloucester teenagers on suspicion of murder. A 39-year-old sub-contractor who was involved in a fight in the city on December 22 later went home to Bedfordshire. He fell ill on Christmas Eve and died on Saturday.

### Kidnap charge

An unemployed man aged 30 from Bath was charged with kidnapping and false imprisonment yesterday after the alleged abduction of a woman in the city last Wednesday. Katey Caven, 38, was found in Brixton, South London.

### Queen's baubles

The Queen is auctioning her Christmas tree decorations at the Victoria and Albert Museum to raise £100,000 for the Society of Stars, which helps children with cerebral palsy. The 400 pieces include a fairy by designer Zandra Rhodes.

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## Second UN jet brought down in Angola

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

A SECOND United Nations cargo plane was shot out of the sky over Angola at the weekend as the 1994 peace agreement continued to unravel despite a 1,000-strong UN monitoring force.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, was outraged by the attack on the chartered C130 evacuating staff and equipment from the beleaguered city of Huambo to the capital, Luanda, on Saturday. All UN flights in the country have now been suspended.

The South African-owned plane — carrying four Angolans, two Filipinos, an American and a Namibian — was hit by a missile about 20 minutes after take-off, near the rebel stronghold of Baiundo. The pilot tried to return to Huambo, but crashed in rebel-controlled territory about 50 miles short of the city.

Troop-contributing countries were told of the attack as they met in New York to discuss the shooting down of another UN flight in the same area eight days earlier. On Boxing Day, another C130, also owned by TransAfric of South Africa, crashed near by with 14 people aboard.

The latest outbreak in Angola's long-running civil war began last month when government troops moved against Unita when it failed to relinquish territory in the central highlands and disband its 30,000-man army as required by the 1994 Lusaka Protocol. Recent fighting has been concentrated near Huambo, the country's second largest city.

The UN began moving out its Huambo staff after a rebel artillery barrage killed at least eight people on Wednesday.

Issa Diallo, head of the UN Observer Mission in Angola, defended the decision to continue the airlift despite the loss of the first transport plane. He said that four government aircraft and two other UN planes had flown out of the city safely on Saturday, and added: "One should draw the conclusion that it is not normal to continue shooting at UN planes."

The UN has been withdrawing its 1,000 monitors from the battle zones to Luanda, and the Mr Annan is due to report in two weeks on whether the peacekeeping mission should continue when its mandate expires on February 26.

Mr Annan, echoing an earlier demand by the Security Council, called for an immediate ceasefire which will permit the conduct of search-and-rescue missions, as well as the relocation of UN staff to safer areas.

The Government claims that Unita is holding crash survivors, but the rebels deny that.

Snow ploughs clear the concrete around grounded aircraft at Lambert International Airport in St Louis yesterday as some of the worst snowstorms ever recorded in the American Midwest left 11 people dead over the weekend. (Damian Whitworth writes. Chicago was buried under

### Midwest snowstorms kill 11

22 in of snow, the heaviest fall in more than 30 years. Richard Daley, the city's mayor, pleaded with people to stay indoors. The band of snow swept from Minnesota in the north

as far south as Arkansas, where two people died in road accidents. Pilings of 60 vehicles or more were reported in several states, accounting for another seven deaths. In Illinois,

two men apparently died of heart attacks while trying to shovel snow. Elsewhere, weather wreaked havoc with hundreds of flights taking people home after the holidays. Only a tenth of flights were able to get in or out of O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the nation's busiest.

# "I've got the winter blues"

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Albright set to snub Sharon

**Jerusalem:** In a sign of American dis-satisfaction with Israel's freezing of the peace process, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, has reportedly refused to meet Ariel Sharon when the Foreign Minister visits America later this week. (writes Ross Dunn)

The diplomatic snub comes as the White House is preparing to roll out the red carpet for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, who is expected to hold a summit meeting with President Clinton in March.

A spokesman for Mr Sharon refused to comment, but his office said in a statement that he would be meeting Dennis Ross, the US special envoy to the Middle East, in New York. Mr Ross is expected to visit the region next week in an effort to convince Israel to implement the Wye River agreement.

The Israeli Cabinet last month halted any more transfers of land in the West Bank under the accord until the Palestinians had met a list of conditions, including dropping threats to unilaterally declare an independent state in May. Analysts believe the agreement was frozen because Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, is campaigning to win back right-wing voters ahead of the May 17 elections.

In a sign that the campaign could turn violent, police yesterday arrested Yair Ben-Abu, 26, who was assigned to protect Ehud Barak, the Labour Party leader, after the security guard was overheard saying that people like him [an Ashkenazi] should be killed.

ISRAELI police last night arrested eight members of an American Christian cult for allegedly plotting extreme acts of violence in the hope of bringing about the Second Coming of Jesus.

The planned violence allegedly included opening fire on Israeli police and at secret sites inside Jerusalem's Old City, with one probable target being the Temple Mount.

A senior police officer told reporters that the cult members believed that, if they died during the shootout, it would "lead them to heaven".

The arrests followed raids on the flats of the Denver-based apocalyptic Concerned Christians in two Jerusalem suburbs in the first sign of a crackdown against cults and Masonic groups ahead of the millennium.

"They planned to carry out violent and extreme acts in the streets of Jerusalem at the end of 1999 to start the process of bringing Jesus back to life," Brigadier-General Elihu Ben-Oni, the national police spokesman, said. "The campaign is to win back right-wing voters ahead of the May 17 elections.

In a sign that the campaign could turn violent, police yesterday arrested Yair Ben-Abu, 26, who was assigned to protect Ehud Barak, the Labour Party leader, after the security guard was overheard saying that people like him [an Ashkenazi] should be killed.

**US religious group is accused of plotting millennium mayhem,**

writes Ross Dunn

in Jerusalem

of the world prophesied in the Book of Revelations.

The cult members, including at least six of their children, did not resist arrest. Up to 70 members are believed to be in Israel after disappearing from Denver in October. The Israeli secret police, Shin-Bet, have been monitoring the movements of some since their arrival in November. It is believed that some of the Concerned Christians had left incriminating evidence on e-mail and telephone messages. Those arrested are all expected to be deported back to the United States.

The raid against them was led by Jerusalem's area commander Yair Yihaki, who said he was concerned to allow visiting pilgrims access to holy sites while preventing extremist groups from entering the country.

The police will continue to work in every legal way to make possible free-

dom of religion and ritual in Jerusalem and in Israel for all religions, in the year of the millennium," he said. "However, we will act firmly against the attempts of extreme groups to block access to Christians in the year 1999."

After the raids, neighbours said the cult members had not bothered them. "They were so nice, so quiet, so polite," said Ramzi Hanono, who lived near one of their houses.

Most of the cult members disappeared from Denver after Mr Miller prophesied that an earthquake would destroy the city. Although the calamity did not happen, many had already sold their belongings and some headed for Israel.

Experts and relatives of members of the cult believe that Mr Miller, who claims that God speaks through him, has the power to persuade his followers to take their own lives.

According to the 1997 affidavit, filed by Nicolette Weaver, 16, in a US district court, her mother, a cult member, had said she would kill her daughter if ordered to by Mr Miller.

"My mother told me in August 1996 that we have only 40 months left on Earth," the affidavit said. "My mother told me that if Kim Miller told her to kill me, she would." The affidavit was used successfully to award Nicolette's father sole custody.

## Children's gifts make ailing Reagan smile

Snow globe and chocolate delight

ex-President,

writes Damian

Whitworth

WHAT do you give a father who was once the most powerful man in the world but now doesn't even know what Christmas is? In a touching bulletin on Ronald Reagan's fight against Alzheimer's disease, his daughter has revealed how last Christmas the family delighted him with simple, childlike gifts.

Patti Davis, who was formally estranged from her father when he was in office but is now trying to help him to make sense of a world he finds increasingly confusing, described how she and her brother, Michael, thought hard before presenting him with a snow globe, picture books and chocolates. They were rewarded with smiles but little comprehension.

In an article in *The New York Times*, Ms Davis did not say whether her father still recognises her. Recent reports have said that Mr Reagan, who is almost never seen in public, now only rarely recognises his wife, Nancy.

"Although my father is not in pain, he loses more of himself each month to Alzheimer's. For him, as for anyone who has the disease, time is the enemy. It becomes jumbled, confused, compressed and emptier all the time — hollowed out," Ms Davis wrote.

She and Michael, the Reagans' adopted son, arranged to give their father presents from them and their brother, Ron, at a meeting at their father's office shortly before Christmas. "We have all thought along the same lines: what will he like to look at, what will hold his attention, or, even better, tug at his imagination?" she wrote.

mountains. He turns the snow globe and smiles at the tiny winter wonderland. I tell him that when he tires of the sunshine outside the window, he can just look into the snow globe and change the season. He looks straight into my eyes and says flatly: "OK."

She had chosen the snow globe hoping it might spark a memory of their time together when she was a child.

"I'm not sure if my father still understands Christmas, but I'm certain he understands giving," she says. "And for the time we are there, so do Michael and I. When my brother and I leave, I ask him who was given the greater gift, our father or us. He doesn't need to answer me; we both know."

Ms Davis, 45, was estranged from her parents for years. Even as he was ordering military action or discussing new arms purchases she was a critical peace activist. Later she incurred her parents' displeasure when she posed for *Playboy*. Now an author and screenwriter, she says the past differences have been overcome.

Ms Davis painted a sad picture of Mr Reagan going into his office in Los Angeles even though he is incapable of working.

"He still goes there for a couple of hours on weekday mornings. There isn't much for him to do, but that isn't the point. It's a routine, and with Alzheimer's routines are important. There is something comforting about cluttering up his desk with gifts and cards. A pad that's never written on is always in the same place, has been for months."



Reagan: rarely in public since Alzheimer's struck

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# the fashion revolution



Above and below: cream trench coat, £615, above the knee check skirt, £155, cream stretch knitted top, £150, and leather lace-up shoes, £325. All items are available from Burberry's, 18-22 Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 3343). Photographs: MARIO TESTINO



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FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

THE TIMES

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● YOUR TOKEN IS ON PAGE 24

Print today on the back page of section one is the first token from The Times for you to collect in our Free Books for Schools promotion. The more tokens you collect, the more free books your school can claim. Tokens will appear every day in The Times until March 27.

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SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN  
CHANGING TIMES



EMMA HOPE  
Shoe designer

Describe your style.  
Currently, dark pinstripe jacket with a white t-shirt, navy trousers, glitter cardigans and skirts from "dressing-up box shops".

What do you think of the current fashion trends?  
I like skinny, sweeping trousers and Voyage's turquoise, sparkly, leopard-print denim dresses. And I love next spring's coral and aqua colours.

their stuff is, if they are trying to be creative.

What is the most expensive/luxurious item you have ever bought?  
My horse, Flash, redeemed by the grazing package of £8 a week, but that doesn't include worming.

What accessory can you not live without?  
My Mont Blanc pen. If there was a fire, I'd be sad if I couldn't find Crackly the dog.

Where do you like to shop?  
I love Peter Jones because it is so calm, and the pazzazz of Westbourne Grove. I also like any shop that sells old clothes and handbags.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift?  
Little dangly aquamarine earrings from Dimp Hall.

What is your style motto?  
If in any doubt, buy both.

LBS Mortgages Limited

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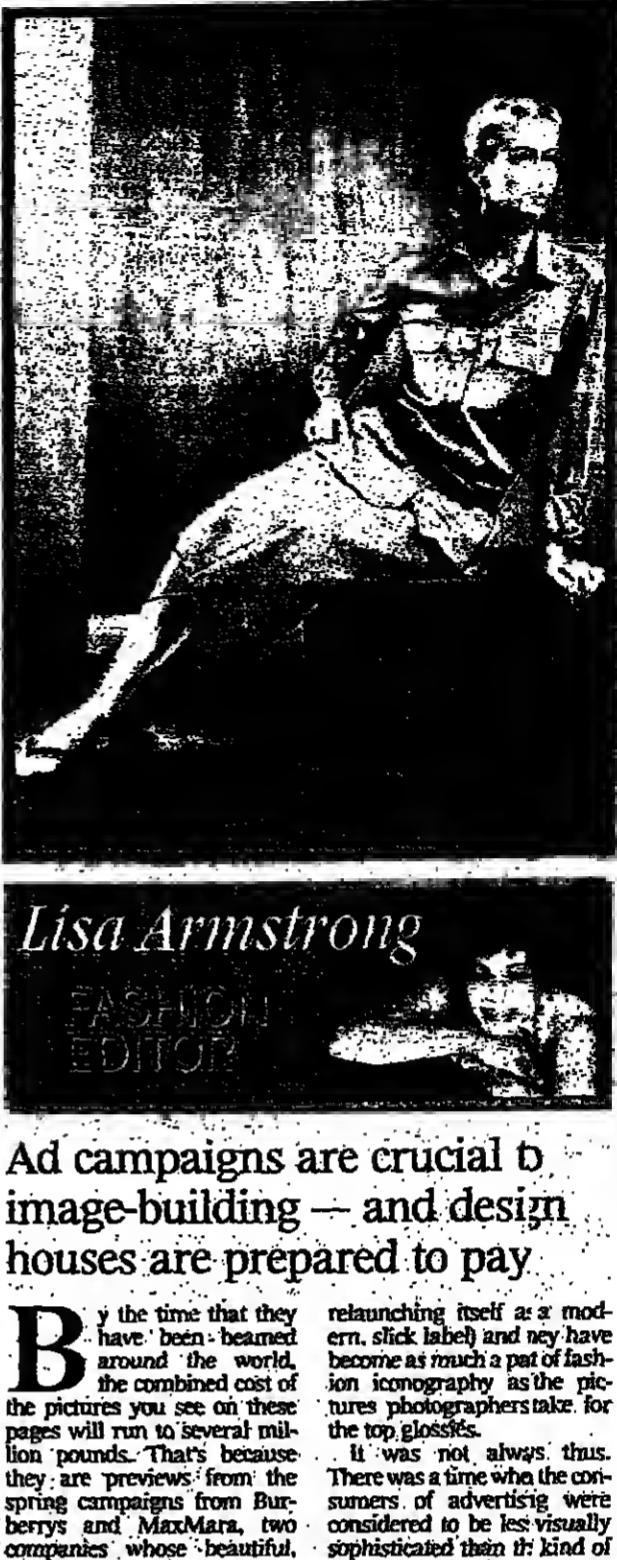
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# The pictures worth millions in



Lisa Armstrong

FASHION EDITOR

Ad campaigns are crucial to image-building — and design houses are prepared to pay

**B**y the time that they have been beamed around the world, the combined cost of the pictures you see on these pages will run to several million pounds. That's because they are previews: from the spring campaigns for Burberry's and MaxMara, two companies whose beautiful, unsensationalist clothes — the kind most women aspire to — require, ironically, "careful framing if they are to compete with the more outré designs that will be aiming to scratch an indelible impression on the collective consciousness over the coming months.

Advertising shoots have always been famous for their lavish expenditure. They have not, however, always been anticipated with quite as much interest as they are nowadays.

It took a team of 18 to realise the MaxMara pictures shown here, including Carolyn Murphy, the model, the photographer, Steven Meisel, and his four assistants; the hairdresser, stylists and the ironer — roughly three times as many as the average magazine would provide. And whereas editorial (even for a glossy front cover) gets away with paying photographers and models around £200 a day, someone in Meisel's orbit would expect upwards of £30,000. (History, alas, does not record what the ironer is paid.) Flying everyone first-class is now de rigueur, and it is hardly surprising that these epic productions burn through a company's profits.

But a good deal of agonising will have gone into more than just the money for these photographs: ad campaigns are the single most crucial tool in a company's image-building (particularly in the case of Burberry's, which is at the "sensitive, second season" stage of relaunching itself as a modern, slick label) and they have become as much a part of fashion iconography as the pictures photographers take for the top glossies.

It was not always thus. There was a time when the consumers of advertising were considered to be less visually sophisticated than the kind of readers who flick through fashion magazines, even though the images frequently sat side by side. Not surprisingly, photographers, stylists and models would do advertising strictly for the (substantial) fees. But now, as Giorgio Armani, the creative director of MaxMara, says: "The public is so visually aware that no one can afford to put out standard images. Especially when they will be blaring across giant billboards from Sunset Boulevard to Laforet in Tokyo. There's so much information; even in a tiny village in Italy you can have access to the latest catwalk directions via the internet."

So whereas we used always to worry about frightening off the consumer, and invariably found ourselves holding back, now we definitely see ourselves competing with editorial in terms of trying to push boundaries a little bit."

**T**hat there is huge kudos attached to working on the big campaigns reveals a great deal about the fluidity that exists between commercial and "artistic" projects. Any raid among fashion aficionados, speculation each season to see who has done the new Gucci (Mario Testino) or Calvin Klein (Testino again) campaigns certainly riles (if not entirely eclipses) any interest in the next Turner Prize recipient. Testino, who shot the Burberry pictures of Stila Ternant shown here, says this is indicative of the way fashion advertising have changed. "There

## C&G CHANNEL ISLANDS LIMITED Investment Rates

Effective from 4 January 1999

### C&G Guernsey 30

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST	12-month	6-month	3-month	1-month
\$100,000 or more	Annually	7.00	7.00	6.90	6.50
\$25,000 - \$29,999	Annually	6.95	6.95	6.45	6.45
\$5,000 - \$24,999	Annually	6.75	6.75	6.25	6.25
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	6.78	7.00	6.31	6.50
\$25,000 - \$29,999	Monthly	6.74	6.95	6.27	6.45
\$5,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	6.55	6.75	6.08	6.25

### C&G Guernsey Gold

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST	12-month	6-month	3-month	1-month
\$250,000 or more	Annually	6.15	6.15	5.65	5.65
\$100,000 - \$249,999	Annually	5.95	5.95	5.45	5.45
\$25,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.60	5.60	5.10	5.10
\$5,000 - \$24,999	Annually	5.15	5.15	4.65	4.65
\$250,000 or more	Monthly	5.98	6.15	5.51	5.65
\$100,000 - \$249,999	Monthly	5.79	5.95	5.32	5.45
\$25,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.46	5.60	4.98	5.10
\$5,000 - \$24,999	Monthly	5.03	5.15	4.55	4.65

### C&G Guernsey Bond

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INTEREST	12-month	6-month	3-month	1-month
12-month Bond	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.00
6-month Bond	5.13	5.20	4.65	4.70

\*AER stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rates would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.

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We may change the rates of these accounts at any time. If we do, we will tell you using at least one of the ways set out in the account's conditions. Rate changes can affect these accounts relative competitiveness and we cannot promise that rates will be better than those available elsewhere.

Left: black slash-neck, short-sleeve top and matching trousers, £230; black velvet hip-flops, £25. Centre: khaki sleeveless long dress, £195. Above right: khaki shirt, £95, and matching skirt, £130. All items are available at MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, London SW1. (General inquiries: 0171-287 3434). Photographs: STEVEN MEISEL



**BAGS** have become the grown-up woman's version of the comic annual: the fashion cognoscenti have this year's model. Well aware of this, the large fashion houses are rolling out new versions every six months. This winter, Fendi clawed back its credibility with the tiny cashmere Baguette. But if your name has finally reached the top of the waiting list, scrap it. The Baguette has been ousted by the Fendi Croissant, a half-moon-shaped variation that cups daintily under the arm.

Next up for consideration is Gucci's Jacqueline, another semicircular reticule that comes in two sizes and will fit the stores this month. It marks a return to Gucci's flashier, monogrammed past. When Dawn Mello took over as the head of design in the late 1980s, her mission was to strip the company's products of its tainted logo. She deleted 10,000 lines, and Tom Ford, her successor, continued the good fight. At the time this was considered brave to the point of insanity. Yet Gucci has been one of the hottest labels of the 1990s.

The company now feels sufficiently secure in its hard-won mantle of chic to return to the basics it once shunned. Enter The Jacqueline, from £250, spattered with the GG logo and embellished with those red and green stripes that once caused Dawn Mello to shudder. Even stranger, it looks very good.

James Laver, the fashion historian, once wrote that it took three decades for a discarded trend to get back on the road to fashion rehabilitation. At the end of the second millennium, however, it takes roughly eight years.

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# the fashion revolution



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FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

THE TIMES

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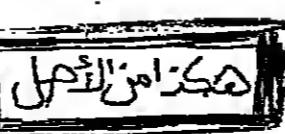
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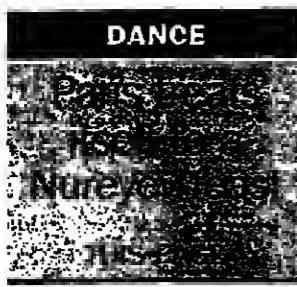
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DANCE

# THE ARTS

MUSIC



## Wrong turning on the South Bank

The latest 'masterplan' for London's biggest arts centre is an extravagant mistake, says Marcus Binney

**F**or the third time the South Bank Centre has got it wrong. The latest plans have been described as visionary. But once again the prospect of large sums of cash, whether from the lottery or property development, has destructively distorted what remains an essential mission: humanising the concrete wilderness of the nation's No 1 arts centre.

Last year the £150 million Richard Rogers scheme for the South Bank crashed because the Arts Council could not find the money for the proposals of its own former deputy chairman. Over the years that the scheme was under discussion, repeated calls had been made for the South Bank to slim it down, or bring it forward in

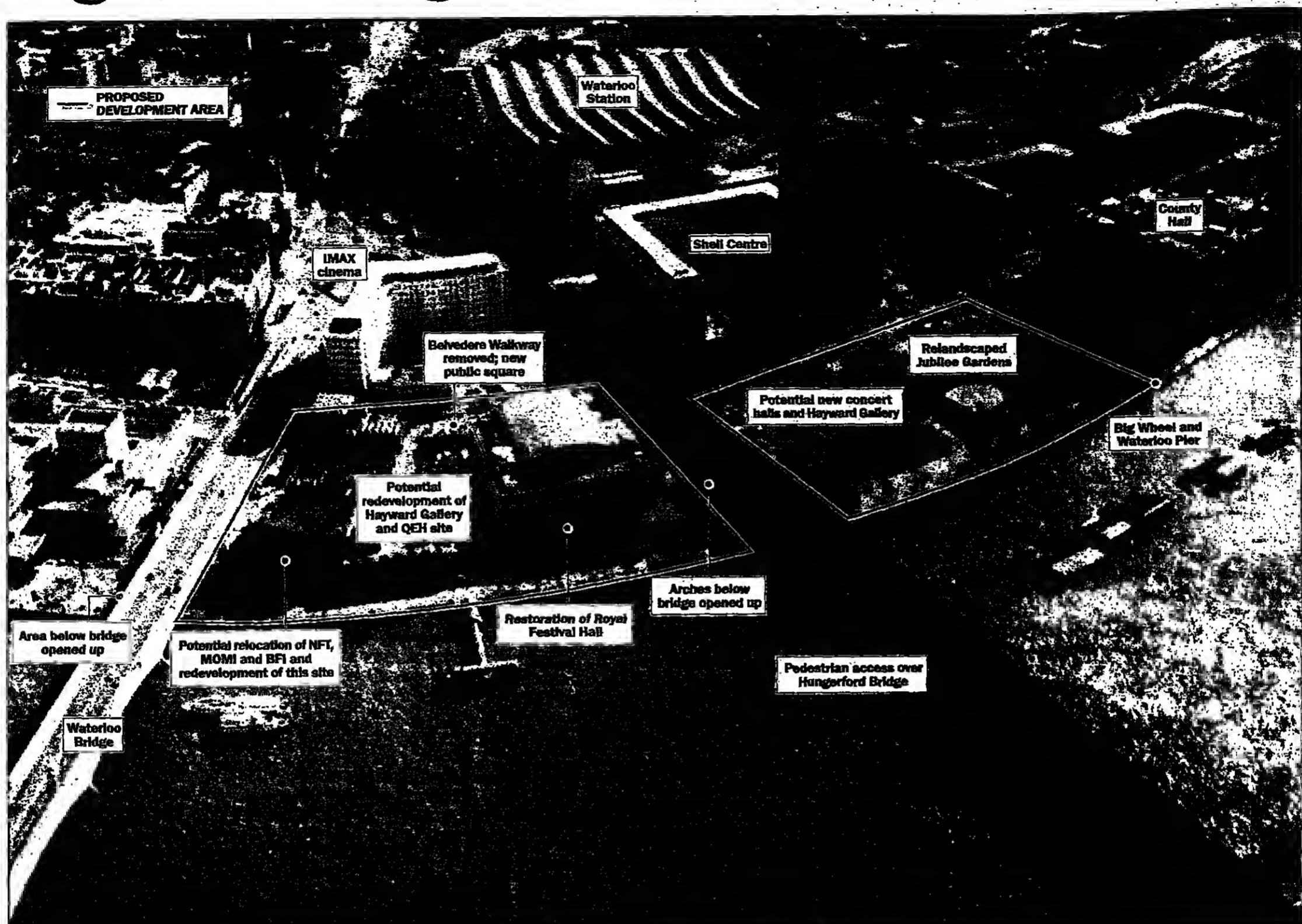
'The centre needs this plan like a hole in the head'

phases, but the centre's management would not listen.

It is time for a little history. The original Terry Farrell masterplan was costed at just £15 million, and achieved what was needed on a self-financing basis. It demolished the hated overhead walkways and brought the place alive with shops, bars and restaurants. For just £5 million (included in the price) the great engineer Peter Rice was going to cast a stretch fabric roof over these 1960s concert halls and galleries, bringing the roof terraces into use — part indoors, part outdoors.

Things went wrong when, in the giddy property market of the Eighties, this grew (under the developer Stuart Lipton) into a £100 million scheme that crashed with the recession. "I began with a light touch and a low budget, and ended up doing a Broadgate," says Farrell wistfully.

Then came the Rogers scheme. In his conception, the commercial elements were first removed, and then brought back to provide revenue funding for the hugely in-



creased running costs of a much larger centre.

The current scheme, by Elliot Bernerd, the South Bank Centre's new chairman, has two plus points. First, he proposes to reopen the river promenade from County Hall to the National Theatre by unblocking the arches beneath Hungerford Railway Bridge and Waterloo Bridge. Secondly, he wants to introduce a popular element, with a much stronger cinema presence. This will consist of a multi-screen commercial cinema, a new National Library of Film and TV and a more prominent National Film Theatre moved up from below Waterloo Bridge.

Film is one of the quiet successes of the South Bank. Bernerd offers two options for his "cine city": either to build on the so-called Hungerford car park site next to Jubilee Gardens, or to demolish the Hayward, the Purcell Room and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, unblocking what he calls "a concrete plug" in the Trocadero.)

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The reason for even thinking about such extravagance is that, according to the South Bank, the Arts Council lottery fund has "earmarked £25 million for us" — in the form of a nod and a wink at a press conference, no less. Add to this the millionaire publisher Paul Hamlyn's generous offer of £17 million, and it is clear that the South Bank management thinks that well over £40 million is already in the kitty.

Yet can anyone seriously justify the demolition of expensive arts facilities that are just 30 years old? If lottery millions were not available, no one would even be thinking of it. The South Bank says glibly: "We have a huge affection for the buildings." But the spokesman adds airily: "New building materials and construction techniques may well make it cheaper to build new concert halls and galleries."

The QEH is highly valued for its acoustic, and is the preferred venue for a whole range of chamber orchestras. The Hayward Gallery is enjoying a renaissance under its new director, and has always been an exciting exhibition space for designers willing to work hard on the installations.

The South Bank also glosses over the potential controversy of building on the Hungerford car park. Locals feel strongly that it should be incorporated into Jubilee Gardens as green space. "Improving the quality of open space will be a key priority," says the South Bank. Buildings, but now Brutalist, like much 1960s design, is in fashion. The Twentieth Century Society and Modernists will fight hard for these buildings.

much dead space on the way from Waterloo station, is now available for public use. Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman, says: "Our current plans are to create a mixture of retail, residential and leisure uses which could include a fitness centre and cinemas."

Cinemas? If Shell is providing cinemas, why does Bernerd have to demolish the Hayward or blot out the Hungerford site to offer the same thing? Perhaps the BFI might even find a cubbyhole in the 26 storeys of the Shell Centre.

According to Shell's own company history, its mighty 1950s headquarters came with a general store and a shooting range ... leisure and health facilities for staff — reception rooms large and

small, exhibition areas, a theatre and a cinema, a gymnasium, squash courts, a sports hall and a swimming pool just short of Olympic size."

Deep underground was secure parking for 453 cars as well as office accommodation for 5,000 people. Part of the Shell Centre is already being marketed as apartments, but a vast quantity of space remains which could rapidly be brought into use.

The South Bank is about to set off on yet another "masterplan". It needs one like a hole in the head. Farrell's original plan, combined with a policy of "make do and mend", would achieve far more, far more quickly, and substantially eliminate the need for lottery funding.

**DANCE:** Christopher Bowen finds plenty of festive treats in Paris, even if they don't come in the usual wrapping

### Anyone for sugar plum? Non!

**T**he French "have no idea how to celebrate the festive season", sniffed a ballerina acquaintance when I mentioned the prospect of spending the holiday in Paris checking out the dance scene.

Well, I suppose if you're a Christmas ballet programmer, begins and ends with *The Nutcracker*, *Cinderella* or one of the picturebook romps routinely rolled out for family consumption at this time of year, then to suggest an alternative must seem akin to sacrilege. But salvation is at hand for those more than a little weary of Snow Flake Fairies and pumpkin coaches: however, you will have to go to Paris to find it.

It's worth the trip. Last Christmas dance fans in the French capital could choose between Merce Cunningham at the Opera Garnier, and Paris Opera Ballet's full-length *Romilda* at the Bastille. This year the choices have been even more seductive (with a one-week period) Nederlands Dans Theatre at the Garnier, the designer-chic Butoh of Sankai Juku at Théâtre de la Ville, the Junior Ballet of the Conservatoire de Paris sharing their stage with Israel's Ensemble Basheva, and the Paris Opera Ballet performing Nureyev's versions of *La Bayadère* and *Don Quichotte*.

There's not a Sugar Plum in sight. Not that the dance on offer

isn't festive. Indeed, apart from the exotic glories of *La Bayadère* and the garlic-infused festa that is *Don Quichotte* (but more of them later), the Junior Ballet produced a programme that positively radiated good cheer.

Most of this, it has to be said, was generated by the dancers themselves rather than the choreography. But these young dancers are exceptional technicians, and the way they collectively submerge themselves in the styles of disparate choreographers is impressive indeed. They look especially good in extracts from Ohad Naharin's *Part, Dance and Zacha* — which they performed alongside Naharin's own "junior" Basheva Ensemble — rippling through rubbery, loose-limbed step combinations with undisguised glee.

No doubt many of these apprentice dancers would look towards Nederlands Dans Theatre, rather than Paris Opera Ballet, as their career goal. And in Jiri Kylian's full-length *One of a Kind* it is possible to see just how far this marriage of classical training and modern dance idioms has been pushed. Kylian long ago moved beyond the surging flow of movement that so dis-

tinguished his early Romantic works like *Sinfonietta*; today his ballets are darker, the vocabulary more fractured. In many of his recent pieces Kylian has given the impression of a restless soul in search of something. In *One of a Kind* I think he may have found it. Set to live and recorded music by Brett Dean (which samples a clutch of composers, Britten and Cage among them) and placed within a series of beautiful structures by the Japanese architect Atsushi Kitagawa, *One of a Kind* showcases the individuality of NDT's remarkable dancers.

**I**t is a piece packed with superb examples of athletic Kylian-esque virtuosity and exquisite doublework (these dancers appear to play each other like musical instruments), but there is a purity here that sets the piece apart. This is dance stripped to the bone, clean and clear and beautiful.

Not that laying on the ornamentation with a trowel is a bad thing. Look at Nureyev's productions of *Don Quichotte* and *La Bayadère* for Paris Opera Ballet. The richness of these stagings is remarkable to behold, whether in the detailed mime business for the

tavern crowds in Cervantes's boisterous tale, or the breath-taking sumptuousness of Ezio Frigerio and Franca Squarciapino's designs for *La Bayadère*. Underpinning it all — as one would expect from this company — is dancing to die for with a sensitivity to every nuance of style few ballet ensembles can match; in the old Don's vision scene, the Dryads dance with majestic splendour, while the Opera Ballet's 32 Bayaderes unfold their famously sustained arabesques into a snaking line of shimmering perfection.

Nor are the characters in these ballets merely ciphers for the dance; at the heart of *Don Quichotte*, Kitri and Basilio are brought vividly to life by Agnes Letestu and José Martínez, their deliciously long limbs carving up the air as they flirt and fight like any passionate Latin couple (Letestu's tomboyish interpretation is a particular delight). Of the two casts I saw in *La Bayadère*, it is Isabelle Guérin's Nikiya and Laurent Hilaire's Solot that appear to transcend

technique with the effortless poetry of their dancing though Elizabeth Maurin and Kader Belarbi make a beautifully romantic couple.

The French don't know how to celebrate the festive season? The sight of Laurent Hilaire reclining atop a Rococo elephant in *La Bayadère* is surely festive enough for most folks.

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A bit treat f cliché

# A bit of a treat for the cliché queen

**THEATRE:** Glaswegian Liz Lochhead talks to Daniel Rosenthal about her hit play *Perfect Days*

**T**wo of 1998's most memorable fictional female characters had much in common: both single, successful career women with disastrous love lives, both deafened by the ticking of their biological clocks. On Channel 4, Ally McBeal's legal progress in Boston was disturbed by her hallucinatory dancing baby. The Edinburgh Fringe offered Barb's Marshall, celebrity hairdresser heroine of Liz Lochhead's play *Perfect Days*, who takes a more active approach to maternity, with a spot of DIY artificial insemination.

"That bloody Ally McBeal started just when I handed in the first draft of *Perfect Days*," says Lochhead. Her fear that McBeal might somehow have stolen Barb's thunder by the time the play opened at the Traverse last August proved groundless. The lawyer's self-absorption made her a figure women love to hate, while critics and audiences were delighted and moved by Barb's bid for motherhood.

Having reinforced Lochhead's reputation as one of Scotland's most popular playwright/poets, the Traverse production is being revived at the Hampstead Theatre in London this week. Siobhan Redmond, for whom the lead role was written, again plays Barb, the star of TV's *Mornington Makewife*, who, at 39, is suddenly "ravenous" for a baby. Far removed from the verse and stylised pageantry of Lochhead's best-known play, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*,

*Perfect Days* is more sitcom than Gothic horror. She calls it "a sad farce".

"I really wanted to write about what it's like for a woman to hit 40 — though because I'm slow this didn't occur to me until I was about to hit 50," she says. "Maternity separates the girls from the women. If you are single, solvent and childless in your late thirties, you're still a bit of a kid."

**If you are single, solvent and childless in your late thirties, you're still a bit of a kid'**

"Despite being a feminist, and believing in equality for men and women, I'm interested as a writer in how the sexes differ. Maternity is, of course, the biggest difference of all."

Married to a Glasgow architect since her late thirties, Lochhead has no children, and insists that *Perfect Days* carries no hint of autobiographical regret. "I don't share Barb's obsession. Not having children is not one of the big sadnesses of my life — though it might become one when I'm 70 and nobody likes me."

Set in Barb's Glasgow flat, *Perfect Days* unfolds as she meets her best friend, her mother, her new lover, her ex-

husband and, most importantly, fellow hairdresser Brendan: loyal, gay and an eager semen donor. The bridges between scenes are filled with snatches of songs by artists like Dusty Springfield and Dr Hook: the lyrics are as clichéd as could be, and Lochhead uses them unabashedly to reflect Barb's mood. "I've never been afraid of clichés, because they deal with powerful, universal questions. Cliché snobs won't like this play, but I don't."

Lochhead's private passion

for old, romantic tunes equals Barb's: playwright and character also share outsize personalities. Lochhead is gloriously talkative (she apologises for "blathering on") and, like Barb, laughs frequently at her own expense. Her ear for dialogue makes *Perfect Days* vibrate with the rhythms of contemporary Glaswegian speech, and she roots the characters in the city she has called home as art student, secondary school art teacher, and, for the past 20 years, professional poet and dramatist.

After a year in which Ken Loach's *My Name Is Joe*, the BBC's *Looking After Jo-Jo* and re-runs of *Taggart* have reinforced Glasgow's screen image as a haven for thugs and addicts, Lochhead refreshingly delivers a tale in which the only violence is emotional and the only drug on display is a pre-coital joint.

"I may have been unconsciously reacting against all those gritty dramas," she says. "Why should there be only one kind of Glasgow story? I like



Liz Lochhead at the Hampstead Theatre, where her Edinburgh Fringe hit arrives this week; she is also writing the screenplay

the city's brash, entrepreneurial side and Barb represents that." The contrast between Glasgow's hard-bitten reputation and *Perfect Days'* comparatively soft centre is beautifully picked out by the mock-gangland name of Barb's hair salon: Razor City.

There is further irony in the play's burgeoning popularity. Lochhead only had Scottish audiences in her sights and thought the play "wouldn't travel"; yet *Perfect Days* is on course for greater international exposure than any of her previous work. Hector Babenco, director of *Kiss of the Spine*

*der Woman*, is preparing to stage it in Brazil, and there are plans for productions in Finland, Israel and Germany. Lochhead loves the idea of translators adding local colour to the script to make Barb a resident of Rio, Tel Aviv or Munich.

Barbs is also heading for cinemas. Paul Webster, head of Channel Four Films, bought the screen rights after seeing *Perfect Days* in Edinburgh, and Lochhead was planning to deliver the first draft of her screenplay this week. She has felt "heartbroken" when other screen projects have fallen

through, but this one seems certain to be produced, probably with Redmond in the lead.

The financial rewards of all this seem not to bother her: "With no kids and a husband who earns his living, I don't need much money." In any case, the bulk of her earnings come not from theatre, but as "a performing poet and teacher" who travels around England and Scotland, giving more than 100 readings a year (some of her finest poems feature Barb-like voices musing on broken relationships).

Far more important than money has been the return of

her zest for her craft. "During the five years before *Perfect Days*, writing was always a struggle. I decided that because I was 50 I would give myself a treat: stop writing films that never happen, and spend a year on a play." That play, designed for one actress and one audience, has placed Lochhead on the verge of a commercial breakthrough. "It just shows," she says, "what can happen when you decide to enjoy yourself."

• *Perfect Days* is at the Hampstead Theatre, NW1, from Wednesday to Jan 30 (0171-722 9300) and tours Scotland Feb 6-March 27

This week in THE TIMES



■ CIRCUS

Cirque du Soleil returns to the Albert Hall with its compelling show *Alegria*. OPENING: Tomorrow REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

Antony Sher takes centre stage in the RSC's *The Winter's Tale* in Stratford. OPENING: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



■ MUSIC

The Nash Ensemble celebrates Poulen's centenary at the Wigmore Hall. CONCERT: Thursday REVIEW: Next week



■ FILM

A fresh stab at it: Anne Heche stars in the remake of Hitchcock's *Psycho*. RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The Joseph Nadj Company opens the London Mime Festival on Saturday

## Fond memories of old Vienna

**CONCERTS**

**New Year's Day**  
Wigmore Hall

Over on television, there was Loris Mazzel, dressed like the father of the bride, escorting the Vienna Philharmonic through the traditional New Year's Day concert. At the Festival Hall, a pick-up band shared the stage with dancers in period costumes, twirling to Strauss family follies. But here at the Wigmore Hall, we had something special: the Johann Strauss Ensemble of Austria, 16-strong, conducted from the violin by a two-year-old.

"Born in Tokyo in 1996," the programme note read, "Jojii Hattori is now in the forefront of the young generation of Japanese musicians." Ah, those Japanese prodigies! It was a misprint, of course; though at 29, Hattori, who was raised in Vienna, still has youthful ebullience in spades. During the interval he took off his waistcoat, leaving extra room round the chest and armpits for waving.

ing at the group with his bow or pleading sweetly as solo violinist in Lanner's wistful *Die Romantiker*, scored for string quintet.

The chamber sound was another of the evening's surprises. Not every instrument was perfectly blended: the double-bass at times behaved like a sore thumb. But after endless renditions by full, gleaming orchestras, how refreshing to hear *The Blue Danube*, *An Artist's Life* and others shaped to the dimensions of the cafés and dance halls where the Strauss family mostly performed. The pictorial effects in Strauss Jr's orchestrations emerged with extra clarity: thunder and lightning erupting on drum roll and cymbal, cuckoo calls on the ocarina, cradled at all times by strings, brass and woodwind. (The players hail from the Bruckner Orchestra of Linz, but they know all about well-judged rumba.)

The repertoire had its novelties, too. With its peasant swirl and compass accompaniment, Strauss senior's *Suspension Bridge Waltz* was a useful reminder of the waltz's rustic roots. Josef Strauss, Strauss Jr's younger brother, was showcased with *Frauenherz*, a tender waltz that lay upon the ears like a caress curled on your lap. The one jarring item was *Waltz for Camille*, commissioned from Rob Lane, and inspired by the life of sculptress Camille Claudel. Who wants to start the year listening to anguish in three-quarter time?

GEOFF BROWN

THREE hours before midnight on New Year's Eve, and the pealing had begun: not in the tongues of bells, but in the voices of the King's Consort, as they swung rhythm across rhyme, word against word in a joyful reprise of the final chorus of Henry Purcell's *Welcome, welcome glorious morn*.

This was the third of six Birthday Odes that Purcell wrote for Queen Mary between 1689 and 1694. Each one celebrates yet another new year of her reign, in florid and obscure imagery of spring and of dawn, of hovering Cupids and ringing Spheres with music to match.

The King's Consort, which knows Purcell inside out and has secured this new year slot for itself in successive years, is aptly Janus-faced in its casting. There is an invigorating sense of continuum in concerts in which the seemingly eternal artistry of James Bowman ballasts the bright youthfulness of a singer like the soprano Carolyn Sampson.

And so it was in this 1691 Ode, as Bowman duetted in subtly matched tones with the bass Peter Harvey to

## Purcell heralds the new

**King's Consort**  
Wigmore Hall

hyphen the love between "Three happy Kingdoms", before Sampson's soprano incarnated the brightness of the gods' blessing on fair Albion. Robert King goes at Purcell with a will; his own harpsichord and a pair of oboes had justly imitated the trumpets' robust opening to the Ode, and his company of singers, had dropped musical echoes like depth charges as they followed in Sampson's wake.

In the first half of the evening, the trumpets of Crispian Steele-Perkins and David Blackadder had led the way in the more stately ceremonial of the 1693 Ode, *Celebrate the Festival*. And when Sampson begged them to cease they refuted, silenced only by the repeated imprecations of the chorus.

The enduring richness and flexibility of Bowman's counter-tenor created a warm wave of phrasing as April clapped her sable wing. Harvey's bass set up the heroic battle cry; and the haunting high tenor of Rogers Covey-Crump re-established peace over a sweet trio of recorders and viola supported by murmuring theorbo and chamber organ.

The Consort's instrumental palette was best displayed in the theatre music by Purcell, that introduced each Ode: first a playfully insistent ground-bass *Curtain Tune* to *Timon of Athens*, and later a suite from *Dido's Lover*, its pungent baritones drawn out by deft bowing, and the adrenaline surging in every upbeat.

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# Coward, back in the midday sun

The Master's voice still has a unique relevance, says Derwent May

**S**ome years ago, my wife and I were at Covent Garden when we noticed Noel Coward in the Crush Bar. We were watching Joan Sutherland in *La Fille du Régiment*, where, in fine swashbuckling style, she was singing Marie, the camp-follower who turns out to be the daughter of a great lady.

After the interval we saw Coward again, sitting alone in the row ahead of us. By now Marie was singing a song in her mother's drawing room. Her suspicious chaperone asked her what she was singing. "C'est un petit chanson de Noël Coward," Sutherland shot back.

Most of the audience probably did not notice, and of those who did, most must have been puzzled. But those who had spotted Coward greatly savoured this compliment thrown down to him in the stalls by one of his best friends — and one of his rare divas who would have been prepared to do it.

This year will be the centenary of Coward's birth in Teddington. 1999 will see many revivals of his plays and shows, notably on television and radio, and we shall have a chance to judge how many of them still work. Bernard Shaw considered Coward his equal as a playwright, and some critics regard his plays as the best light comedies of the century. But for me Joan Sutherland got it right. It is those petits chansons of his that live.

Above all, of course, there was that strange voice of his, coming far from the back of his throat, as though he was letting us in on some secret buried deep in his heart, but combined with rolling "r"s that gave you the option of thinking he was just a cheeky chappie. Teasing ambiguity again.

If his love songs made him the match (and friend) of Cole Porter, his witty songs of society made him the match (and friend) of John Betjeman. And perhaps it is these I really love best. He anticipated *Dad's Army* long before with his "Colonel Montmorency" who was in Calcutta in '92' paving the way for Captain Mainwaring. Best of all is Coward's great comic vision of disaster. *Bad times are just around the corner*, with Britain in chaos and despair.

The earliest to make a mark were his pre-war love songs, such as *The Party's Over Now*. Like many of his love songs it is full of a strange, teasing ambiguity:

*The party's over now.  
The dawn is drawing nigh.  
The candles gutter.  
The starlight leaves the sky.  
It's time for little boys and girls  
To hurry home to bed,  
For there's a new day waiting just ahead.*

it's sad that the party's over? Or was there something faintly wrong about it all? Is it bad or good news that there's a new day waiting just ahead? There is a hint here of the same tender moralising that we find in another famous Thirties song of his, *Poor Little Rich Girl*, with its witty, admiring half-rhyme in its last line: "Poor little rich girl — don't drop a stitch too soon."

As for the more personal

love songs that he went on writing all his life, they can be full of haunting intimations of happiness and bleakness. *I travel alone* boasts that "No remembered love can ever find me," and that "there's one illusion left to me, and that's the happiness I've known alone". (Even that, note, is an illusion.)

But some of the love songs are also among his most comic, highlighting his grief by setting them against other considerations — such as *Any little fish can swim*:

*Any little dog and any little cat  
Can do a bit of this and then a bit of that,  
Any little horse can neigh,  
and any little cow moo —  
But I can't do anything at all but just love you.*

Here the litany of carefree animal behaviour goes on getting more absurdly lewd from verse to verse.

How far these songs can work their magic when sung by other people is another thing we shall presumably find out next year. Coward felt his way into them completely from the inside, usually starting with a line of melody and letting the words shape themselves round it; he could hardly write or read music. And his singing wonderfully drags out or hastens out the rhythm for evocative or funny effect, hinting all the time at what is left unsaid.

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## PERILOUS PETITIONS

A time to save the grammar school, not sign it away

For many parents with a child at state school, this year promises unrest, instability and dispute. The cause of this gloomy prophecy is the Government's policy to allow parents to petition, and then vote to abolish the 164 remaining grammar schools. Ignoring all arguments against what is a vindictive and damaging measure designed to set parent against parent, ministers have surrendered to old Labour dogma. The power to preserve these beacons of excellence now rests with parents themselves. Before they put their name to a petition calling for the end of selection in local schools, they should think hard about the consequences.

Kent County Council runs a fifth of the nation's grammar schools. As we report today, if Kent's parents vote to end selection, the council will need to restructure much of the county's education system. This could cost about £150 million, which the council will need to find itself. The Government has already said it will not be providing any extra money to cover the cost of grammar schools' abolition. Parents should ask themselves: would this money not be better spent on failing schools, on books, teachers and new equipment, rather than destabilising thousands of children's education?

The opponents of grammar schools claim that selection is unfair, and results in "educational apartheid". They argue that children who fail to get into a grammar school are consigned to "sink" schools, where they are deprived of the education they deserve and risk being labelled a failure, sapping their confidence. It would be fairer, according to these egalitarians, to treat every child the same, by giving them the same opportunities.

Persuasive though this argument might be to some, it suffers from the fatal flaw of

being quite removed from reality. All children are unique, with their own set of skills, strengths and weaknesses. A fully comprehensive, monochrome system that provides the same education for every child, cannot cater for the wide range of ability that exists. Diversity of talent should be reflected by diversity of provision. It is worth noting that 10 per cent fewer English and Welsh pupils gain five or more A-C grades in their GCSEs than do their counterparts in Northern Ireland, which has an almost fully selective system. Where teaching is matched to the abilities of the children, all pupils gain.

There are pockets of educational failure in England and Wales where the only choice is between underperforming schools. Yet parents should not be lulled into blaming this on the existence of grammar schools: the culprits are more likely to be inadequate teachers and poor management. Instead of levelling down standards by smothering the pinnacles of achievement, they should be exhorting their councils to do more to raise standards in failing schools. Until this happens, the destruction of grammar schools will pose parents with bright children a stark choice to risk the local comprehensive or opt out by sending their offspring to an independent school. Why should they suffer this fate?

Left-wing ideologues might well rejoice at the abolition of grammar schools. But their actions will harm those whom they most claim to help, the children themselves. Money will be wasted on reorganising schools; parental choice will be restricted; children's education will be disrupted and their opportunities hindered, not widened. Parents should consider these consequences before signing any petition on a grammar school's future.

## DEMOCRACY'S TYCOON

The Magellan of the Net exemplifies the Nineties

If the charting of outer space was a voyage of discovery which inspired modern Magellans in the third quarter of this century, the past decade has been dominated by the colonisation of cyberspace. The scientific creativity which once clustered around the Nasas bases of America's South East has been eclipsed by the technological fecundity of California's Silicon Valley. And the pioneer who has helped millions to make the new world of the Internet their own is a Stanford University dropout who became a billionaire before he was 30. Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo!, the Internet search engine, is democracy's tycoon.

The Internet is, in essence, no more than another communications network, the lineal descendant of Marconi, Bell and Logie Baird's brainchildren. But its potential, to transform society and baffle the beginner, is altogether greater. A few key strokes allow any individual access to a greater library of information than any scholar has hitherto dreamt of. The sheer scale of the Internet makes it imperative to find a trusted guide through the electronic souk. Yahoo! provides that guide, acting as a living gazetteer and endlessly renewable map.

Yahoo! (which stands for Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle) grew out of the leisurely exploration of the Net indulged in by Jerry Yang and his friend David Filo while they were both finding reasons not to work on their doctorates at Stanford University. Messrs Yang and Yang pooled their knowledge of the most



PEOPLE OF THE CENTURY

## COLLECTION DAYS

Help The Times to fill the bookshelves of our schools

To a child with few opportunities at home, what greater gift could there be than the chance to escape to a different world? A good education offers long-term escape; a wonderful book affords instant flight to other times, places, people and plights. The beauty of *The Times*' Free Books for Schools scheme, launched today, is that, by encouraging children to enter now into the joy of reading, it may help to produce a generation of more literate, better educated young people in the future.

The scale of this enterprise is immense. In cooperation with other titles owned by News International — *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *Newspaper of the World* — and Walker's snackfoods, some one billion tokens will be issued between now and the end of March. If all were cashed in, schools around Britain would be able to order between two and ten million free books. There are 150 titles to choose from, ranging from Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* to James Joyce's *Dubliners*.

Here is a chance for readers to make a real difference. Head teachers will encourage parents to collect and contribute. But even outside the narrow school community, there is ample goodwill to be tapped. As we report today, many City firms are already planning to collect tokens and hand them on to nearby schools.

No school can ever have enough books, and some have far too few. Years of financial stringency have taken their toll on school libraries. For children with book-lined walls at home, such deprivation can

be offset. But for those who cannot slake their thirst to join the world of the imagination, this scheme offers a great new start.

Reading is an enthusiasm that can easily be instilled. The age of computers does not, as some pessimists insist, foretell the death of the book. Far from it. Whatever the achievements of Jerry Yang and his followers, the computer and the written word are not competitive (as books and e-books are) but complementary. Children cannot become truly computer-literate until they are truly literate. And even playing games on a laptop encourages the very habits of solitude, silence, concentration and sitting still that are part of curling up with a book.

But who ever heard of curling up with a computer? The hardware is still too cumbersome, the screen too flickery, for reading at a computer to be a relaxing experience. Indeed most people, when they find a mass of information on the Internet, will print it out for ease of hand and eye.

Publishers moved from scrolls to pages almost two thousand years ago: computers have yet to match that convenience. So books have a long life left. And each one ordered for a school can enrich many individual human lives. Covered in sticky-backed plastic, the corners of their pages dog-eared, today's books will remain in their libraries for a decade or two to come. Collect avidly, please — and help to bring new worlds to this generation of children and their successors.

## CPS strength is in its independence

From Mr John S. Walker

Sir, After eight years as a salaried Crown Prosecution Service lawyer, I believe that your correspondents today are unduly pessimistic (see also letters, December 8 and 17).

There is now no serious argument against a single independent national prosecuting authority, locally delivered. Essential to that independence is the independent-mindedness of the individual prosecutor. That quality is already exercised daily in the "wham-bam" (Mr B. H. Slater's words) of the magistrates' court and is also applied

there to "fine points of law".

In my experience salaried prosecutors are not now swayed from their duty by performance targets or prospects of promotion and there is no reason to think they will be in the future. Respectful fear of the judiciary will have a much more powerful effect than any performance target.

Also essential to that independence is adequate resources, lack of which is the source of Mr John Shell's perceived "increasing sloppiness" in case preparation. (The independent barrister is no bulwark against that, merely a victim.)

Obviously, looking at discontinuance, acquittal and conviction rates is one useful monitor of efficiency, but I can assure Professor Zander that I have never seen pressure of this kind used to affect individual case decision-making, nor should it be. If you use a plumber, whether self-employed or salaried, who always leaves the pipes leaking you think twice about continuing to him.

A further essential, I suggest, is a mobile profession (I have a philosophical bias against lifelong prosecutors). More criminal advocates need to move from prosecuting to defending and vice versa, at all levels. Crown Court rights of audience are necessary for that, as are more flexible policies on recruitment and conditions of service. Mixing of experience can only improve both advocacy and Crown Court preparation.

Let us have both Crown Court rights and a vigorous independent profession!

Yours faithfully,  
J. S. WALKER,  
Shepherd's Pasture,  
3 Chancery Close, Lincoln LN6 8SD.  
December 29.

From Mr Paul Randolph  
Sir, Since gaining their independence in the early Nineties, the newly emerging Central and Eastern European states have been steadily discarding their former Soviet-type laws and procedures and rebuilding new democratic legal infrastructures. In this process they have looked to the English legal system, which they hold in high esteem, for inspiration and guidance.

I am aware that lawyers throughout the Baltic States and Hungary, whether judges, attorneys or state prosecutors, all look in awe and admiration at the independence of the English Bar and a system which enables barristers to prosecute one day and defend the next. They are equally amazed that we appear to be moving towards a system which they have been striving ardently to relinquish.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL RANDOLPH,  
(Chairman, British Estonian Latvian Lithuanian Law Association;  
Vice-Chairman, British Hungarian Law Association),  
New Court, Temple EC4Y 9BE.  
December 29.

## Pig farmers' plight

From Paul Cross

Sir, I want to thank *The Times* for its support of the pig industry over the last six months. You have featured articles on the current plight of pig farmers and your leader on December 19, "Eat pig for Christmas", shows your increasing concern for this very hard-working group of people. There is no doubt that they are all suffering badly at the moment.

When a break-even point of around 85p per kilo is needed and today prices are around 60p, a loss on a 100-kilo bacon pig load would be £1,750. When we have seen prices of just 45p per kilo a couple of months ago whilst supermarkets were charging upwards of £1.80 per lb (approximately £3.90 per kilo) for English bacon, it sums up the unfairness of it all. Someone does seem to be making money out of this disaster.

British pig farmers have tried to take a decisive lead in improving the welfare of their stock but this, in turn, has only added to their production costs compared with overseas producers. If supermarkets say they would like to see more welfare-friendly systems, then they should start paying British pig farmers a premium, not forcing us out of business.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL CROSS  
(Manager),  
Cotswold Research and  
Development Centre,  
Wye, Kent TN25 5DF.  
December 21.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## School holidays eat into term-time

From The Reverend Andrew Bryant

Sir, How strange that a Government committed to promoting the strengths of family life should urge travel companies to issue warnings against parents taking their children on holiday during term-time (Report, December 30). What evidence is there that one or two weeks out of school will damage their education? If the national curriculum cannot cope with a temporary absence, shouldn't a greater flexibility be built into the system?

When many families are spending less time together, the educational potential of simply learning to get on with one another on a shared holiday provides plenty of scope for personal and social development.

We have four children under ten, and financially could not take them away during the "peak" times of half-term and August. Most travel companies add excessive premiums then, thus discriminating against teachers as well as families.

Perhaps the School Standards Minister, Estelle Morris, could address this, rather than issue warnings in travel brochures or urge head teachers not to allow absences for a wholesome family break.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW BRYANT,  
54 Fairholme Avenue,  
Romford, Essex RM2 5UX.  
andrew.bryant@btconnect.com  
December 30.

From Mrs J. M. Williams

Sir, Lower cost is not the only reason why parents take holidays during schooltime. Many big companies allow only a certain percentage of staff to take annual holidays during school holidays, especially the long summer break — which may leave staff who want to go away as a family no choice in the matter.

With a full week at half-term and the Easter break starting on Wednesday, March 30 (back on Monday, April 12), is it any wonder that some parents are removing their children during term-time? With fewer options for the timing of holidays, it is no surprise that it creates a vicious spiral in demand at key times — with price increases to match.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP R. MATTHEWS,  
71 Shaftesbury Road,  
Wilton, Salisbury SP2 0DU.  
phil606@aol.com  
December 30.

From Mr Desmond High

Sir, I put the children's (state) school dates on the calendar yesterday, and these more or less rule out the prospect of a two-week break at any time other than during the six-week summer period.

With a full week at half-term and the Easter break starting on Wednesday, March 30 (back on Monday, April 12), is it any wonder that some parents are removing their children during term-time? With fewer options for the timing of holidays, it is no surprise that it creates a vicious spiral in demand at key times — with price increases to match.

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desmondhigh@compuserve.com  
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Yours faithfully,  
REG COOLEY,  
50 School Lane,  
Fulford, York YO10 4LS.  
December 27.

From Mr Guy Jackson

Sir In *Northanger Abbey*, chapter 1, Jane Austen describes Catherine Morland as preferring "base ball", cricket, etc to books. It was written in 1797-98, although not published until 1818. The author would not have referred to a sport unfamiliar to her readers so presumably it had been around for some time. Is this a coincidental linking of two different sports, or does it, more probably, indicate a direct connection between our earlier base ball and the later baseball?

Yours faithfully,  
GUY JACKSON,  
4 Addison Crescent, W14 8JP.  
December 28.

## Baseball's first joyful steps

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. K. Cooley

Sir, Further to John Goodbody's report on baseball (December 26), my understanding is that *A Little Pretty Pocket Book*, published in London in 1744, contained the following verse, headed "Base-ball":

The ball once struck off,  
Away flies the boy,  
To the next destined post.  
And then home again with joy.

The Boston publication *Goodbody* mentioned was Robin Carver's *Book of Sports*, which referred to the game as base, or goal ball. The first formal baseball rules were drawn up in 1845 by a surveyor, Alexander Cartwright, and drew heavily on Carver; a lot of the original code is still a part of baseball law.

Baseball was an amateur sport until the Cincinnati Reds turned professional in 1869. Their instant domination of the game led to the formation of the first professional league, the National Association, in 1871. It perished in 1875 in a welter of gambling, bribery, intimidation and corruption, to be followed by the present-day National and, in 1901, American leagues.

Yours faithfully,  
REG COOLEY,  
50 School Lane,  
Fulford, York YO10 4LS.  
December 27.

From Mr Guy Jackson

Sir In *Northanger Abbey*, chapter 1, Jane Austen describes Catherine Morland as preferring "base ball", cricket, etc to books. It was written in 1797-98, although not published until 1818.

The author would not have referred to a sport unfamiliar to her readers so presumably it had been around for some time. Is this a coincidental linking of two different sports, or does it, more probably, indicate a direct connection between our earlier base ball and the later baseball?

Yours faithfully,  
GUY JACKSON,  
4 Addison Crescent, W14 8JP.  
December 28.

From Mrs Joy Breckwoldt

Sir, My advice to Mr Pat Buckley, who complains that his enjoyment of reading *The Times* is frustrating the plans he made for his retirement (letter, December 29), is to re-employ his teaching experience. If he timetables his day carefully, his ambitions to succeed in music, literature and art will fit neatly around longer than normal playtimes in which he can enjoy all the pleasures of his newspaper.

Mrs Buckley's adjustment to his retirement may have to be more in the area of sharing those pleasures.

Yours faithfully,

JOY BRECKWOLDT,  
The Vicarage, 30 Cross Street,  
Moulton, Northampton NN3 7RZ.  
peterbreckwoldt@compuserve.com

From Mrs S. R. B. Wood

Sir, I am a fellow-sufferer. My husband has also recently left his job. He had great intentions of how to occupy himself, such as becoming computer-literate, landscaping the garden, even building a barbecue. Unfortunately a major part of his day is spent doing the *Times* crossword. I am told that when working he used to complete it. When did he have the time?

For myself I have had to find other ways to occupy myself, such as how to get my hands on the paper.

Yours faithfully,

CLARE WOOD,  
Brockfield Farmhouse,  
Worthill, York YO19 5XJ.  
clare.brockfield@btconnect.com  
January 1.

From Ex-celebs

From Mr C. Tudball

Sir, I was going to



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## OBITUARIES

## THE RIGHT REV RONALD GOODCHILD

The Right Rev Ronald Goodchild, Suffragan Bishop of Kensington, 1964-80, died on December 28 aged 88. He was born on October 17, 1910.

Ronnie Goodchild — that is how he was known throughout his ministry, bishop or not — was a master at ensuring that useful things happened, though always in a typically unobtrusive Church of England manner. The variety of jobs he did, from school chaplain to suffragan bishop, gave full scope to his great pastoral gifts, which he exercised untiringly.

Ronald Cedric Osbourne Goodchild was born in Australia, the son of a clergyman who had been a Bush Brother before marrying and who later became vicar of Turnham Green in West London; the family returned to England when Ronnie was six. From St John's School, Leatherhead, he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a second in both parts of the History Tripos and later a third in theology.

He then spent two years as an assistant master at Bickley Hall School in Kent before training for the ministry at Bishop's College, Cheshunt. Ordained by Bishop Wilmington Ingram, he became a curate in 1935 at St Mary's, Ealing, thus gaining West London experience which was to prove useful in later years when he returned to the area as Suffragan Bishop of Kensington.

In 1937 he became chaplain at Oakham School, where he was a sympathetic figure, popular with the boys. He published *Daily Prayer at Oakham School* in 1938.

Much to his headmaster's displeasure, he volunteered for the RAF as a captain in 1942; his father was already serving. He flew on bombing raids, was twice mentioned in dispatches, and on one occasion had to entertain Winston Churchill on his own for half an hour during an alert.

After D-Day he went to France with a wing of Typhoon fighters. He remained in the RAF until 1946, then spent a further three years in Germany as Warden of St Michael's House, Hamburg, involved in educational work with young Germans who had grown up under Nazism.

He enjoyed a natural rapport with young people, and he continued to work with them on his return to



Goodchild: rapport with the young, whether as school chaplain or bishop

England in 1949, becoming Schools Secretary of the then thriving Student Christian Movement, a position he held until 1953; for the last two of those years he was also priest-in-charge of the City of London parish of St Helen's, Bishopsgate with St Martin Outwich.

From 1953 to 1959 he was vicar of Horsham in Sussex, and from 1954 rural dean. He worked hard, building a fine team of clergy. As ever keen on youth work, he formed Horsham Boys'

Club, as well as a cricket team. He also proved an effective and innovative fundraiser.

At the invitation of Robert Stopford, then Bishop of Peterborough, Goodchild became Archdeacon of Northampton in 1959 and also rector of Eton. He arranged for Eton rectory to become the diocesan retreat house on his departure, was greatly committed to ecumenism, and worked all hours in the archdeaconry. Stopford

became Bishop of London in 1961, and three years later called Goodchild to be Suffragan Bishop of Kensington.

In West London the same pastoral ministry went on, allied to innovation. He had in the early 1950s become involved with the Parish and People movement and retained a strong interest in developing new forms of worship and reviving parochial life. Now he was instrumental in initiatives such as the Heathrow airport chaplaincy. He also gave much valuable help to parish clergy.

His disarming manner was often evident. In Notting Hill, for instance, where the clergy were concerned to build good relationships between the black community and the police, he opened one meeting with prayer, saying that he was "first in to bat", a remark perhaps more redundant of Oldham than the Portobello Road but one likely to endear him all the same to any West Indian cricket lovers present. On another occasion, celebrating Communion in a parish church, he said to the congregation: "The Lord is here." Meeting with no congregational response, he turned to the server with the words: "He is here, isn't He?"

The offer of a diocese did not come his way. He served for 16 years in Kensington. During those years, the London diocese was moving towards a new system of organisation based on episcopal areas and synods, with Bishop Stopford's (and later Bishop Ellison's) full support. This came into being in 1979, Goodchild having played an enthusiastic part in the work of reorganisation. He was a willing participant in group work, collaborating with fellow London bishops much younger than he, until his retirement. Always strongly committed to Christian social action, he served from 1964 to 1974 as chairman of the Christian Aid department of the British Council of Churches. He was a member of General Synod from 1974 to 1980.

He took to retirement well in 1980, following his beloved cricket, and to indulge his passion for carpentry, always being a handyman. He and his wife Jean, whom he had married in 1947 and who was a rock of support all his life, moved to Welcome, near Bideford, in North Devon. From 1983 he served as an assistant bishop in the diocese of Exeter, enjoying helping out, but thankful not to have to go to meetings. He leaves his widow, four daughters and a son,

## PROFESSOR PAUL HANCOCK

Paul Hancock, Professor of Neotectonics at the University of Bristol, died of cancer on December 9 aged 61. He was born on March 26, 1937.

PALL HANCOCK was an international authority on active fault zones and the movements that result from earthquakes. He was an expert in archaeoseismology, the analysis of earth movements from evidence of damage to archaeological sites, particularly in the classical world. He was on the staff of the Bristol geology department for 30 years.

Paul Lewis Hancock was educated at Sheen Grammar School, London, and Durham University, where he graduated with a first in geology in 1959. His doctoral research, on the structural geology of the Orkney anticline in Pembrokeshire, was also carried out at Durham, under the direction of Professor Martin Bon.

This offered him to indulge his passion for fieldwork in areas where the detailed evidence in the rocks is less obscured by vegetation: in Greece, Turkey (Anatolia), Saudi Arabia and Spain. In collaboration with Terry Endean of Pennsylvania State University, he developed ways of determining stress fields in the Earth's crust using the pattern of joints (cracks) in rocks. His research on the evolution of fault zones is widely applied in areas of the world where earthquakes are common.

In the 1990s Hancock combined his interests in geological structures with his fascination for archaeology. He showed, for example, how the displacement of how rocks fracture under stress to produce faults and joints. When interest in faulting became much more widespread in the 1980s, he was already an acknowledged leader in the field. His research shifted from the study of ancient fault systems, mainly in South Wales, the Cotswolds and the Bristol district, to the investigation of active faults, particularly in the Aegean.

While structural geologists were focusing mainly on the complexities produced by the multiple folding of rocks, Hancock embarked on an investigation of how rocks fracture under stress to produce faults and joints. When interest in faulting became much more widespread in the 1980s, he was already an acknowledged leader in the field. His research shifted from the study of ancient fault systems, mainly in South Wales, the Cotswolds and the Bristol district,

to the investigation of active faults, particularly in the Aegean. But Hancock's contribution to geology went far beyond his own scientific work. He was an energetic and highly respected editor, and in 1978 founded the *Journal of Structural Geology*, now the lead-



Hancock: combined geology with archaeology

ing journal for the subject. He was at various times a visiting professor in Argentina, Italy, Turkey, Germany, Canada and the United States.

He supervised some 20 research students, about half of them from the Middle East, but was perhaps more influential in his role, for more than 20 years as tutor to undergraduates reading archaeology and geology at Bristol. His strong personality and interdisciplinary background added cohesion to a degree school that combines teaching from the faculties of arts and science and attracts students from widely different backgrounds.

He was an academic of the old school, and his style was somewhat formal, but many students seemed to prefer it that way. As a teacher he was well-organised, committed and uncompromising in his mission to explain.

His first marriage, to Janet Fletcher, was dissolved ten years ago. In 1994 he married Anne Becher, with whom he shared an enthusiasm for the arts, travel and good company. He is survived by her and by the son and daughter of his first marriage.

## DR HENRY COCKBURN

Dr Henry Cockburn, MC, former Medical Superintendent of St Mary's Hospital, London, died on December 4 aged 94. He was born on December 23, 1905.

HENRY COCKBURN, known as Cocky, was the last person to hold the traditional post of Medical Superintendent at a London teaching hospital. Such posts had been in existence since the 19th century and were usually given to bright young graduates, carefully selected by the consultant staff of the hospital; to be held for a few years on a small stipend while training for a chosen specialty. The duties were not arduous, and consisted principally of seeing that the beds were occupied, supervising the conduct of the resident medical staff and looking after the health of the nursing staff.

However, when Henry Cockburn was appointed to this post at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, as a returning ex-service man after the last war, he became indispensable. He kept the post for nearly thirty years and became one of the most dominant and certainly most loved figures at St Mary's, respected and admired by generations of medical students, doctors and nurses.

The son of a GP, Henry Dundas Cockburn was born in Ealing, educated at Ormrod and in 1931 won a scholarship to study medicine at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. For the next seven years he enjoyed life to the full as an undergraduate, excelling at all forms of sport. It was the time of the great St Mary's Hospital rugby team of the 1930s, and Cockburn held his position as scrum half, setting up a special partnership with T.A. Kemp, the England outside half.

Cockburn qualified in 1939, and after a year of resident hospital posts joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. He spent most of the war in the Far East, initially commanding a field ambulance company attached to 32nd Independent Infantry Brigade, at a heavy fighting against the Japanese during the Bishenpur and Imphal operations, his advance dressing station had to deal with the casualties of all three brigades involved, and part of the citation for St Mary's.

Although he had little time for the vast increase in bureaucracy and committee work which came about during his time as Medical Superintendent, Cockfield's direct and honest approach with administrators earned their respect, and they frequently turned to him for advice. His concern and support for the junior medical staff were renowned, and many will recall with gratitude the gentle advice offered in what could be frightening circumstances for a young newly qualified doctor.

He never married and in retirement went to live in an old cottage in a remote part of the Welsh Borders. Here he lived happily for some 18 years, winning the affection and regard of the small village.

He continued to visit London and participated in those activities at St Mary's that interested him such as the Postgraduate Association and the setting up of the medical school and hospital archives.

He was also a regular supporter of the rugby club Easter tour of the West Country, and for many years organised the annual golf and cricket tour for postgraduates.

Military Cross stated that "he organised and inspired search parties which succeeded in bringing the wounded although the battle was still raging, and, by getting the casualties under cover, he saved many lives of the 200 wounded under his care". He continued with the Army throughout the Burma campaign reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel and being twice mentioned in despatches.

The war over, he returned to St Mary's and was appointed assistant director of the student and staff health centre, which had just been started by his old friend and rugby colleague Dr T.A. Kemp. Within a few years he was also

## Latest wills

Joyce Eyre Lomas, of Bideford, Devon, left estate valued at £11,863,795 net.

Peter John Jansen, Group Chief Executive MB-Cardon, formerly MB Group, since 1989, of Weybridge, Surrey, left estate valued at £8,818,322 net.

Edward Stephen James Richard Hatter, of St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, left estate valued at £6,675,014 net.

Sir Robert James Clayton, technical director, General Electric Co 1968-83; GEC Director 1978-83, of Stannmore, Middlesex, left estate valued at £2,479,470 net.

Baroness Dora May van der Feltz, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £2,407,711 net.

Lorna Kathleen Macmillan, of Pennybridge, Ulverston, Cumbria, left estate valued at £3,004,934 net.

She left £6,000 to the PCC of St Mary's, Egton-cum-Newland, Penybridge.

Norman Jackson, of Appleby, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,085,702 net. He left £500 to the Sir Robert Speed Charitable Trust, and Clare College, Cambridge.

Elsie Winifred Pratt, of Taverham, Norwich, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,520,124 net.

She left £500 each to Halifax branch; RNLL Carlton United Reformed Church, Halifax, the PCC of St Anne's in the Grove, Southwark, London, left estate valued at £1,000,098 net. He left £500 to Thorpe St Andrews Parish Church.

Norman Walker Seaward, of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,453,385 net. He left £5,000 each to Gloucestershire

County Association for the Blind, Salvation Army, Cottwood Group of Riding for the Disabled, Royal British Legion, St John's Ambulance Brigade, Guide Dogs for the Blind, National Star Centre for Disabled Youth, RNLI, National Trust for Scotland, National Council of YMCAs, Red Cross Society and Cheltenham Animal Shelter, £2,000 to both the NSPCC and Stanton Guild House.

Violet Louise Sparrow, of London SW20, left estate valued at £1,164,183 net.

James Galloway Reeve, of Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, left estate valued at £1,000,098 net. He left £500 to Thorpe St Andrews Parish Church.

Stanley Reginald Woodland, retired civil servant, of Haslemere, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,112,112 net.

Phyllis Mercy Woolgar, of Hassocks, West Sussex, left estate valued at £995,888 net.

## THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS

## SERIOUS ACTION OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR

BERLIN, January 3.

The defeat and surrender of Dr Jameson and the Chartered Company's forces had been followed by a shout of triumph and the Emperor's message of congratulation to President Kruger is a relatively moderate expression of the general enthusiasm provoked by the victory of Germany's far-off kinsmen. The Imperial Gazette publishes the text of the Emperor's telegram as follows:

"I express to you my sincere congratulations that without appealing to the help of friendly Powers you and your people have succeeded in repelling with your own forces the armed bands which had broken into your country and in maintaining the independence of your country against foreign aggression".

This telegram must not, however, be taken

merely as the expression of the Emperor's personal feeling. It was drawn up after a conference at the Chancellor's Palace ... It assumes, therefore, the character of a State document of the highest importance, the more so as it contains an unqualified recognition of

## ON THIS DAY

January 4, 1896

Dr Jameson's raid against the Boer Government in the Transvaal on December 29 was a fiasco — a misplaced act of imperial folly, one in which The Times played a devious role.

The Emperor William's telegram had the dual purpose of humiliating Britain and of acquiring a measure of popularity for him in Germany.

It exists that they are de facto nullified by such an act of unparalleled aggression as that which has been carried out with her connivance, if not at her instigation and take this opportunity of placing its relations on a footing of equality which can never afterwards be challenged.

In official circles the promptitude and energy with which the British Government and the High Commissioner disavowed Dr Jameson's action and endeavoured to arrest his advance into Transvaal territory are no doubt recognized and appreciated. They are, of course, fully aware that instructions of the most categorical character had been despatched from London to the Cape some time before the German Government had taken any action in the matter. But unfortunately there has been little or no attempt to restrain public opinion by calling attention to that fact, and as a natural result the view almost universally taken is that Germany's intervention was mainly instrumental in compelling England to repudiate at the eleventh hour all responsibility for a criminal plot unmasked.

As for Mr. Cecil Rhodes's complicity, nothing will shake people's belief in it here. The language which is applied to him almost denies reproduction ...

Thurstone, Kingsbridge, Devon, left estate valued at £1,082,817 net.

Eric Murray Prain, of London SW3, left estate valued at £1,085,702 net. He left £500 to the Sir Robert Speed Charitable Trust, and Clare College, Cambridge.

Elise Winifred Pratt, of Taverham, Norwich, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,520,124 net.

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Harold Thomas Petrie, of



JANUARY 4 1999

FRIDAY

Review: Pauline

OPINION

CUS petitions

democracy's tycoon

lection days

1999

COLUMNS

HAMES

WILLIAM REES-MONROE

ERWENT MAY

OBITUARIES

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JANUARY 4 1999

THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

SPORT 29

FA Cup: O'Leary's title hopefuls forced to hang on for a draw against high-class minnows

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# Leeds discover that Diamonds are genuine

Rushden and Diamonds 0  
Leeds United 0

BY OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE last time a pair of jack-boots tried to muscle in on a romance, they got short shrift in the *Sound of Music*. On Saturday, they attempted a comeback at Nene Park, Doc Martens disguised as plucky little Rushden and Diamonds.

They were supposed to be the darlings of the FA Cup third round this season, but it did not take long to work out that underdogs never used to



be like this. It was cheek enough that they managed to hold Leeds United, a club 90 places above them in the football pyramid, a club chasing the FA Carling Premiership title, to a goalless draw. It rubbed salt into the wounds when they forced their eminent visitors to hang on for dear life in the last 15 minutes after they had been reduced to ten men.

But, what gave the game away was the message that the stadium announcer read out moments after the final whistle. "Supporters' club coaches for the replay at Elland Road a week on Tuesday will leave at 3.15 and 3.30," he said.

This story, you see, is not a true romance because Rushden and Diamonds are not true minnows. They are a fine club, staffed by courteous, helpful, hospitable people and



Foster, right, who squandered chances for Rushden and Diamonds, pushes forward while O'Leary, left, and Talbot, the opposing managers, embrace after the final whistle

owned by the soft-spoken and unassuming Dr Martens multimillionaire, Max Griggs. They heaped credit upon themselves by not raising their ticket prices. But nothing about them is little, no part of their set-up deserves to be patronised.

Marooned somewhere in the middle of Northamptonshire they may be, but they are assuredly big boys already, an ambitious, threatening club that knows exactly what it wants. They do not have dreams.

They have goals. And there is a very important difference.

This game, against Leeds, was not the be-all-and-end-all for them, it was just a stop on their march to full league status and who knows where else. That they had already made all the plans for a replay, reflected not only on their professionalism but on their pragmatism. Other non-league sides might have scrambled to make arrangements in a state of agonised wonder. Where others would make no bones about the enormity of

the prospect of being in the hat for the fourth round of the FA Cup, Griggs said unservingly that attaining league status was definitely the priority.

He even hesitated when asked if this was Rushden and Diamonds' finest hour.

He said the various promotions that had carried them from the depths of the United Counties League, where they were

when he founded the club in 1992, had been great occasions, too, but that the draw with Leeds shaded them.



Foster, right, who squandered chances for Rushden and Diamonds, pushes forward while O'Leary, left, and Talbot, the opposing managers, embrace after the final whistle

baink looked primed to score a hatful. Somehow, it never happened. Partly owing to Leeds's overelaboration, partly to the defiant goalkeeping of Ian Foster, it was Rushden who created the best chances.

Adrian Foster should have put them ahead in the first minute but he could only head a cross by John Hammerton against a post from close range. De Souza could have scored, too, eight minutes before half-time and Foster missed another gilt-edged

chance on the stroke of the interval, slicing his volley wide.

By then, Feuer had beaten out several shots from Hasselbaink, seen a curler from Kewell drift narrowly wide and watched as a shot by Wijnhard cannoned off the foot of his right-hand post. His feet kept a shot by Kewell out in the sixth minute, out, after that, Rushden began to look the better side.

The confidence grew in the 76th minute, when Woodgate was sent off for a second bookable offence, and they should have won in the closing stages. Foster, ending his match as he had begun it, was the culprit, ballooning his free header over the crossbar from Hamster's corner.

The replay beckons but Brian Talbot, the Rushden manager, had his mind on more pressing targets. "We're third in the Conference and I don't know if we'll make to the league this season. If we don't make it next year either, I suppose I better start looking over my shoulder." If that's romance, then the traditions of the Cup are changing faster than we thought.

RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (4-2-3-1) I Feuer — T Woodgate, J Fletcher, D Bradstock, P Burrows, C Hammerton, C De Souza, A Pezzati, G Legg, J Foster, D Garside — C Wijnhard, I Hasselbaink, H Kewell, I Foster (sub: S Dunn).

LEEDS UNITED (3-4-3) N Marney — Wijnhard, J Hammerton, C Kewell, C Hooper, L Breyer, D Garside — C Wijnhard, I Foster, A Smith (sub: J Hazzard), H Kewell (sub: S Dunn).

**Reames brings touch of reason**

Cardiff City 0  
Yeovil Town 1

## Prolific Dale almost gets his wires crossed

BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE dawning realisation of the possible consequences to his future security could not wipe away the grin from Carl Dale's face as he talked of the goal against his former club that so recently brought Yeovil Town their Nationwide Football League scalp at Ninnian Park on Saturday.

Dale, released by Cardiff last summer after seven seasons, has been granted a testimonial match in May. "I had a great reception from the supporters," Dale said, "but if my goal had turned out to be the winner, I don't know how many would have been back in May."

IN AN ideal world, Mick Fletcher, the referee from Walsall in the West Midlands, would have awarded Lincoln City two penalties, both of which would have been converted and Sunderland would have got their just deserts for persuading the Football Association to replace the appointed official, Paul Dawson, of Leicester.

This is English football in the Nineties, however, and, as if to confirm that the haves will always prevail over the have-nots, Fletcher waved aside Lincoln's appeals and Sunderland, the runaway leaders of the Nationwide League first division, progressed to the fourth round of the FA Cup through a six-tenth-minute goal from Gavin McCann.

John Reames, the Lincoln chairman who recently took over the manager's job as well, because he did not think it was fair to ask someone else to run a club struggling at the bottom of the second division and losing £4,000 a week, could have been forgiven for being bitter. Instead, Reames provided an object lesson to those bleating managers such as Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger, not to mention Peter Reid, whose dismissal from the dug-out by Dawson after he had sent off Martin Scott and Paul Stewart at Arsenal in 1996 was behind Sunderland's protests.

"I think the whole story behind the referee is a crying shame for football," Reames said. "I could have said that we should have had two penalties today and I don't want this referee again. But what a nonsense that would be."

It would be nice to report it was a crying shame that Lincoln lost, but that was hardly the case in a disappointing cup tie that was decided six minutes after McCann had gone on as a substitute for the injured Scott.

Lincoln, to their credit, kept trying to play football but those penalty appeals apart, Sunderland had few problems in recording their eighth clean sheet in nine games, despite the dismissal of Williams just before the end of the game for a second bookable offence.

LINCOLN CITY (4-4-2) J Vaughan — J Bennett, S Holmes, C Brown, R Bellamy, T Smith (sub: C Alcock), S Fletcher, P Miller (sub: J Potts), P Sturt, T Thorpe, C Sunderland (4-4-2) J Sorenson — C Marin, A Melville, P Butler, M Scott (sub: G McCann, 10), P Williams, R Bell, C Cain, G Gray — D Dohico, N Clark

## Everton guilty of another City smash-and-grab

BY RUSSELL KNIGHTON

Bristol City 0  
Everton 2

AT Ashton Gate four years ago, Everton were torn limb from limb by Bristol City in a FA Cup fourth-round tie, somehow survived and then snatched a late winner. This went on to win the Cup, beating Manchester United in the final.

At Ashton Gate on Saturday, Everton were marched blow for blow by Bristol City in a third-round tie, rode their good fortune and then snatched victory with two late goals from Ibrahim Bakayoko and Nationwide League first division strikers. It was classic Cup fare, raw unfettered and played out in front of a passionate, raucous audience.

City lost it in the second half when Hewlett volleyed against a post, missed the rebound and Tostareanu, the Moldova midfield player,

drove over from the ensuing scramble. Akinbiyi also erred, ungraciously, when Murray's cross fell invitingly and he headed over from barely three yards. "It was a free header," Lemarston said. "I thought it was in."

Enter Bakayoko, a previously peripheral figure like so many of his team-mates. The Ivory Coast striker is not noted for his expertise at free kicks but, in the 84th minute, his deliciously struck 30-yard effort flew past Phillips. Four minutes later, Bakayoko brushed aside Carey, cut in and bamboozled Phillips with a scuffed shot from close-range. It compounded the injustice and as the ecstatic Everton fans spilled on to the pitch, dancing jigs of elation, the City supporters set off home in disbelief.

ARSENAL (4-4-2) S Phillips — A Locke (sub: G Goodridge), T Smart, M Shel, T Carey, M Bell, S Murray, I Toshemaru, M Odebiyi, C Odebiyi, S Wilson, T Adams — A Anderson (sub: A Akinyele), S Torphy

EVERTON (3-4-3) T Myhill — S Beg, D Watson, R Unsworth, R Dunne, O Dar, C Davy, J McEneely, J Dyer, D Jones, D Ball, J Bamford (sub: J O'Connor), S Carrington (sub: M Branch, 81), I Balotyle

Referee: J Winter

## Cole bunkers Swansea's hopes of shock success

West Ham United 1  
Swansea City 1

BY PETER ROBINSON

GOT home, opened the door, coat off, shoes off. Wife inquisitive: "How's the game then?" Fine, very entertaining. "What happened?" Draw, West Ham were lucky.

"What's your line?" If you were looking long-term, then Joe Cole made his debut.

"What about Swansea?" They were excellent, yes, but Cole they say, is the future of English football.

"And how old is he?" Seven-

teen. Just. "Oh, come on, that is far too young. You cannot tell how anyone will turn out at that age. You are making the classic mistake of building someone up before they are ready for it. And it is not fair on Swansea." What do you mean not fair?

"How often do they get people writing nice things about them in *The Times*? They almost knock a Premiership team out of the Cup and you don't even write about them?"

She was right, of course. Swansea were magnificent. They took on a team 70 places higher than them in the league ladder, away from

home, and made them look ordinary. A 24-year-old centre half signed from Tiverton Town for £15,000 at the start of the season, his first as a professional, scored their goal which was created by a twinkling 18-year-old winger.

Yet through a rematch at West Ham's Field lies in store, there is still a nagging doubt. Will those players at Upton Park on Saturday remember the game as one in which Cole made his bow as a professional footballer? Probably not.

Had he not come on, 65 minutes into a passionate

match, Swansea would probably have won. Tactically, they were spot-on and they refused to be intimidated either when, after 35 minutes, a brawl erupted. Ruddock and Smith were both booked.

Smith went on to score the Swansea goal, a header from close range after Roberts had skipped past Potts, but, shortly after, as Cole came to steal his thunder. Welcomed by the crowd like a Hollywood star, he did not let them down, dancing away from tackles like a natural. Had he scored, he would have brought the house down. Instead, it was Dicks whose long, low drive

rolled underneath Freestone, the Swansea goalkeeper, who marred an otherwise fine afternoon with the mistake that cost his team a place in the

match. It might have done. Swansea may win the replay. They certainly can, on this evidence. They should, if only to ensure that justice is done. Neutrals everywhere must hope that they will.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-5-1) S Mclagan — P Pearce, N Ruddock, J Cole, T Lodge, S Lomas, E Barkovic (sub: J Cole), S Jones, S Lewis (sub: S Ormonde, 81) — J Hart, M Bell, C Odebiyi, M Wilson, R SwanSEA CITY (4-4-2) R Freestone — S Jones, J Smith, M Bound, M Howard — S Roberts, N Gash, M Thomas, J Coates — S Walker, J Aspin

Referee: S Lodge

Dicks, right, salutes his goal

**Southport pay the penalty as underdogs**

Southport 0  
Leyton Orient 2

BY STEPHEN WOOD

THERE would have been no sympathy, no understanding had the result gone the other way. With the rarity of an FA Cup third-round triumph ensured, however, Barry Hearn, the chairman of Leyton Orient, was able to dwell on the difficulties of life in the Nationwide League third division.

"It was a myth to have Southport as the underdogs," Hearn said after the game.

"There's not much between the two leagues in terms of standard and, because we are a struggling club, we need to keep this Cup run going just as much as they did. Financially, it will be a great help to us."

For Southport, of the Football Conference, the sneaking feeling that their giant-killing act had come in the previous round, away to Mansfield Town, turned into reality. Then they were under pressure but emerged victorious because of their clinical finishing.

On Saturday, they enjoyed much of the possession, some good chances, but there was no way the ball was finding its way past Chris Mackenzie, the Orient goalkeeper.

The match appeared to turn in their favour from the fourth minute, when John Bagnall, the home goalkeeper, made a superb save from Martin Ling from close range. Encouraged, Southport took the contest to Orient, and only two goal-line clearances from Matthew Joseph, the Orient defender, prevented the home side establishing a lead.

Shortly after half-time, however, the encounter swung back in the visitors' favour. After an hour, Phil Horner, the Southport defender, was adjudged to have fouled Ling in the area and Dean Smith converted the penalty, although the decision by John Bradwood, the referee, looked harsh.

On the counter-attack, Carl Griffiths scored Orient's second and not even a yellow card for over-celebrating — he jumped over the barrier and into the stand containing Orient fans — negated their delight. By contrast, Paul Fletcher, the Southport player-manager, just about contained his disgust at the referee's judgment.

SOUTHPORT (4-4-2) J Bagnall — A Farley, P Bolland, P Horner, T Ryan — S Dunn (sub: J Newman, 77m), S Guyot, P Fletcher, C Fletcher, 77m — D Boulton, D Bradstock

Orient (4-4-2) C MacKenzie — M Joseph, D Smith, S Cook — P Richard, A K Amponsah, 77m — M Horner, 77m — C Fletcher, 77m — J Lauren — D Bolland, D Sturridge

Referee: E Wolstenholme

heaven

FA CUP THIRD ROUND

FA CUP THIRD ROUND					
ASTON VILLA	(1) 3	HULL	(0) 8	OPI	(0) 0 HUDDERSFIELD
Colemorey 45, 57	39, 217			11, 685	Allison 42
Joachim 51				OPI L. Edwards, A Herd, I Bradstock, S Morris, K Price, A Rowland, M Rose, G Peacock, S Stans (sub: C Keown), T. Smith, K. Golam, P. McCay (sub: I. Davis 45).	
Aston Villa: M. Davies, A. Wright, G. Spindler, U. Etoho, S. Wilson (sub: C. Charles 70min), M. Draper (sub: S. Gaynor 59), S. C. Attwells, J. Joachim, G. Barry, I. Hendre (sub: A. Leitch 78), B. Stacella.				Boswell, Stale, Ready.	
Hull: S. Wilson, M. Davies (sub: R. Peacock 59), G. Rivers, J. White, M. Hodson, M. Edwards, W. Jones, S. Hayes (sub: D. O'Brien), D. Bryan, S. Butcher, B. McNamee 59, C. Fadokwa, S. Murray.				Headteacher: N. Vassier, S. Jenkins (sub: S. Edmondson 45), Edwards, G. Johnson, S. Hassett, K. Gray, S. Collins, O. Price, M. Stewart, W. Allison, T. Cowan.	
Booked: Parker, D. Brown.				Burke, E. Gray.	Referee: M. Hall
Relevee: S. Matheson.					
BLACKBURN	(1) 2	CHARLTON	(0) 0	ROTHMENH	(0) 0 BRISTOL R
Davies 45, 58, 88	16, 531			6, 056	Leon 45
Blackburn Rovers: J. Flatt, S. Hernandez, G. Gallacher (sub: D. O'Brien), A. Davies, J. Wilcock, S. Peres, M. Edwards, W. McEvittin, D. Marwick, Paul, D. Dunn, C. Bell, G. Cottal, J. D. Steele.				Rebentraub: M. Polley, J. Jordison, P. Hurst, D. Samer (sub: S. Schuster 60min), A. Knoll, P. Dillon, V. Werner, S. Thompson, White, L. Glorie (sub: T. Berry 25), A. Roscoe.	
Charlton Athletic: S. Rice, D. Mills, G. S. Milner (sub: C. Powell), N. Redfearn, R. Roberts, E. Younis, A. Kiernan, A. Hunt, J. Robinson, C. Tello (sub: M. Holmes 68), S. Parker (sub: M. Bayat 83).				Booked: Barnes, Gary, D. Jones.	
Booked: Parker.				Bristol: L. Jones, S. Lewis, T. Chalkie, I. Holloway (sub: T. Tough 36), S. Foster, D. Lee, J. Shore, M. Meader, R. Tress.	
Relevee: N. Burgess.				Carlton: J. Roberts (sub: D. Jones 74, sub: B. Penrice 88).	
Relevee: S. Matheson.				Booked: Chalkie.	Referee: P. D.
BOLTON	(0) 1	WOLVES	(1) 2	RUSHDEN & B	(0) 0 LEEDS
Sekker 57		Keane 6, 65		6, 431	Serge off: J. Woodgate (Leeds) 76
TD, 268				Rushden & D. Woods: I. Fahey, T. Wooding, D. Bradstock, Hanmer, J. Andrew, C. Hopkins, M. McCallion, S. Bentwich, A. Fuser, M. De Souza, P. Heppell.	
Bolton: J. Jackshammer, N. Cox, M. Watson, P. Franklin, G. Bergeson, M. Fox, M. Johnson, C. Johnson, J. Robins, E. Edwards, D. Holdsworth (sub: A. Gunthorpe 67), S. Taylor, S. 3-4-3.				Booked: Butterworth, Foster.	
Booked: J. Scott, S. Walker.				Leeds: N. Manyan, A. I. Holland, C. Wijnbergh (sub: A. S. Jordan), J. F. Hasselbeck, L. Bouyer, D. Hoyton, O. Graven, H. Kewell, I. Harte, J. Woodgate.	
Wolverhampton: M. Grealish, M. Alvaro, N. Muscat, F. Gomes, N. Emerton, K. Cole, R. Fletcher, C. Ayew, S. Costa, R. Keane, M. Gilkes.				Relevee: S. Dunn.	
Booked: G. Jones, M. Grealish, E. Emerton.					
Relevee: A. D. Urse.					
BOURNEMOUTH	(1) 1	WEST BROM	(0) 0	SHEFFIELD UTD	(1) 1 MOTT'S COUNTY
Hove 34	10, 687			Marcelo 36	Jones 71
Bournemouth: M. Overdale, N. Young, J. Vincent, S. Howe, J. Flores, I. Bailey, C. Stevens, S. Robertson, M. Stanis (sub: R. Bell), S. Fletcher, R. Hughes.				Sheffield: D. Ball, A. Kelly, V. Bobbink, W. Quinn, P. Ford, S. Derry, S. Sandford, C. Waddington, N. Mander (sub: G. Stann 74min), M. Marco, P. Davies, N. Henry (sub: M. Twiss 60).	
West Brom: P. Whelchel, P. Holmes, G. Potts, M. Borodales (sub: M. Angel 66), S. Murphy, A. Carter, E. Harrold, S. P. D. Feeney 73, R. Sheeves, J. Quinn (sub: S. Price 75), L. Hughes, K. Mullan.				Booked: Devil.	
Booked: Carbon, Whelchel.				Lewis: N. Manyan, A. I. Holland, C. Wijnbergh (sub: A. S. Jordan), J. F. Hasselbeck, L. Bouyer, D. Hoyton, O. Graven, H. Kewell, I. Harte, J. Woodgate.	
Relevee: S. Jordan.				Relevee: S. Dunn.	
BRADFORD	(1) 2	GRIMSBY	(0) 1		
Mills 30		McDermott 79			
Lawrence 67	13, 670	Serge off: A. O'Brien (Bradford) 51			
Grimmster, A. Dawson, J. McDermott, T. Collymore, P. Handasyde, R. Smith, S. Goddard (sub: D. Lee 52), N. D. Edwards (sub: K. Black 50), D. Smith (sub: T. Washington), T. S. Livingstone, J. Lester, P. Graves.					
Booked: Carbon, Whelchel.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
BRAESIDE CITY	(0) 0	EVERTON	(0) 2	SOUTHAMPTON	(0) 1FULHAM
19, 605	86, 86			Ostendorp 89	Hayward 9
Braeside City: S. Phillips, A. Locke (sub: G. Gough), P. Evans, K. Bell, S. Murray, M. Stigall, L. Corry, M. Keating (sub: C. Hutchinson 71), T. Murray, A. Anwar, S. Torpey, S. Anderson.				Serge off: K. Monkou (Southampton) 70	
Booked: P. Keate.				Sunderland: P. Jones, S. Hiley, P. Collett, C. Palmer, M. Morris, C. Lundelham (sub: G. Monk 20min), J. Dako, Dako (sub: M. Hughes 68), E. Ostendorp, J. Beattie, K. Kochuk.	
Relevee: J. Jacobs.				Booked: Palmer.	
Grimmster, A. Dawson, J. McDermott, T. Collymore, P. Handasyde, R. Smith, S. Goddard (sub: D. Lee 52), N. D. Edwards (sub: K. Black 50), D. Smith (sub: T. Washington), T. S. Livingstone, J. Lester, P. Graves.				Fellister: M. Taylor, S. Fenton, R. Brewell, A. Neilson, C. Collett, K. Symons, S. Hayward, P. Bracewell (sub: W. Collins 60), Horsfall (sub: P. Trollope 89), N. Smith, B. Hayles (sub: Lehmann 73).	
Booked: Carbon, Whelchel.				Booked: Symons, Hayward, Horsfall. Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
SWINDON TOWN	(0) 0	STOCKPORT	(3) 3	SOUTHPORT	(0) 0 LEYTOWN ORIENT
5, 325	Angell 5	Lucken 13 (og)		1, 950	Smith 60 (pen) Griffiths 71
Bury: D. Kelly, A. Woodward, P. Williams, N. Davies, C. Luton, D. West, D. Swales (sub: S. Johnson 50min), C. Kelly (sub: S. Formes 46), L. D. Johnson (sub: A. Prece 12), L. Johnson, A. Luton.		Woodthorpe 26		Seahorse: J. Bagnall, A. Farley, T. Ryan, P. Boland, S. Guy, Horner, S. Quinn (sub: J. Newman 7min), P. Fletcher (sub: Furton 23), A. Gaskell, O. Gaskell, D. Thompson.	
Booked: Prece.				Booked: Devil.	
Relevee: C. Neash, S. Connolly, T. Doherty, J. Gannon (sub: S. Tracy 91), M. Flynn, M. Dickinson, R. Matthews, D. McInnes, S. Angel (sub: S. Grant 84), J. Moore, C. Wondolowski.				Leyton Orient: C. MacKenzie, W. Wolschaerts, M. Lockwood, S. Smith, M. Joseph, S. Clark, M. Ling (sub: A. Ingilby 8), M. McDowd, C. Griffiths (sub: A. Stobbs 30), T. Richards (sub: Amparo 75), M. Bell.	
Relevee: J. Kelly.				Booked: Richards.	Relevee: J. Brundage.
Relevee: M. Price.					
CARDOFF	(0) 1	YEOVIL	(0) 1	SWINDON	(0) 0 BARNESLEY
Nugent 34	Date 54			12, 516	
12, 561				Swindon: F. Tolia, S. Robinson, G. Hall, R. Hubert, C. Taylor, Horse, M. Whynes (sub: I. Omara 63min), C. Hay (sub: S. G. 65), R. Ndola, O. Bellock, T. Gooden.	
Cardiff City: J. Hallworth, W. Delaney, M. Ford, G. Mitchell, J. Edwards, J. Fowler, D. Hall (sub: A. Legg 67min), M. O'Sullivan, J. Williams (sub: C. Roberts 57), F. Nugent, C. McAllister.				Booked: Palmer.	
Booked: J. Hallworth, W. Delaney.				Sunderland: P. Jones, S. Hiley, P. Collett, C. Palmer, M. Morris, C. Lundelham (sub: G. Monk 20min), J. Dako, Dako (sub: M. Hughes 68), E. Ostendorp, J. Beattie, K. Kochuk.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
COVENTRY	(3) 7	MACCLESFIELD	(0) 0	TOTTENHAM	(4) 5 WATFORD
Froggett 28, Whelan 36	14, 197			Iverson 11, 20	Johnson 1
Payne 45 (og)				Anderton 13 (pen)	Kennedy 34
Huckerby 60, 71, 90				Nielsen 43	35, 022
Booked: Whelan.				Fox 87	
Coventry City: M. Hartman, R. Nelson (sub: P. Teller 74min), C. Burrows (sub: S. Shatto 64), P. Williams, R. Stoez, G. McAllister, G. Odegaard, T. S. Lovell, S. Froggett, P. Keeley (sub: N. Whelan (sub: J. Atkinson 55)).				Tottenham Hotspur: I. Walker, S. Carr, A. Nielsen, R. Forster, Anderson (sub: S. Clemente 60min), L. Ferdinand, O. Giannini, A. Simon (sub: J. Edinburgh 89), S. Campbell, L. Yorke, B. Smith (sub: M. Hollister 63).	
Booked: J. Atkinson.				Booked: Devil.	
Relevee: M. Price.				Relevee: M. Price.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
COCVENTRY	(3) 7	MACCLESFIELD	(0) 0	WEST HAM	(0) 1 SWANSEA
Froggett 28, Whelan 36	14, 197			Dicks 67	Smith 61
Payne 45 (og)					
Huckerby 60, 71, 90				West Ham: S. Hislop, S. Potts, N. Ruddick, I. Pearce, J. Dicks, S. Lomax, E. Berkely, N. Quinn, C. Carr (sub: S. Carr 65min), W. Hartson (sub: S. Abu 70), S. Lazarus (sub: E. Onyema 85min).	
Booked: Whelan.				Booked: Ruddick.	
Relevee: T. Peters.				Sunderland: R. Freestone, S. Jones, M. Howard, N. Cusack, M. Smith, M. Bound, J. Coates, M. Thomas, J. Atkinson, S. Williams, R. Roberts.	
Relevee: M. Price.				Relevee: Smith, Coates, Dakar, Thomas. Relevee: S. Jones.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
COTWORTH	(0) 0	MACCLESFIELD	(0) 0	WIMBLEDON	(0) 1 MAN CITY
10, 408				Cort 62	11, 226
Serge off: D. Williams (Sunderland) 69				Serge off: J. Euseff (Wimbledon) 85	
Luton: C. Chapman, J. Barnet, S. Benson, I. Pelling (sub: L. Philpot 50min), S. Holmes, S. Green, P. Smith, C. Alcock 80).				C. Carr (Wimbledon) 74	
J. Finigan, A. Balcombe (sub: P. Stoddart 72), L. Thorpe, P. Miller.				A. Morrison (Man City) 74	
Booked: Smith.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
COVENTRY	(3) 7	MACCLESFIELD	(0) 0	TOTTENHAM	(4) 5 WATFORD
Froggett 28, Whelan 36	14, 197			Iverson 11, 20	Johnson 1
Payne 45 (og)				Anderton 13 (pen)	Kennedy 34
Huckerby 60, 71, 90				Nielsen 43	35, 022
Booked: Whelan.				Fox 87	
Relevee: T. Peters.				Tottenham Hotspur: I. Walker, S. Carr, A. Nielsen, R. Forster, Anderson (sub: S. Clemente 60min), L. Ferdinand, O. Giannini, A. Simon (sub: J. Edinburgh 89), S. Campbell, L. Yorke, B. Smith (sub: M. Hollister 63).	
Relevee: M. Price.				Booked: Devil.	
Relevee: T. Peters.				Relevee: M. Price.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	WREXHAM	(0) 0 SCUNTHORPE
Johnson 47		Windass 19		Logan 22 (og)	Housham 50
4,207		Murphy 45, 66		Connolly 47, 56, 90	Eyre 71
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.					
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Wrexham: M. Cartwright, M. McGregor, O. Rider, D. Brann, S. Carey, M. Chalk, N. Roberts (sub: K. Russell 85), K. Connolly, I. Rush, P. Ward.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Booked: Rider, Cartwright.	
Relevee: T. Peters.				Sunderland: T. Evans, A. Fielding, S. McAleny (sub: S. Howarth 30), R. Logan, P. Hartley, C. Hiles, J. Walker, J. Forrest, J. Gayle (sub: L. Marshall 72), A. Calvo-Garcia.	
Relevee: M. Price.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	POOL'S PANEL VERDICT:	Sheffield Wed 1
Johnson 47		Windass 19		Norwich (HT Score draw, FT: Home win).	
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.					
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.					
Relevee: S. Jones.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	WREXHAM	(0) 0 SCUNTHORPE
Johnson 47		Windass 19		Logan 22 (og)	Housham 50
4,207		Murphy 45, 66		Connolly 47, 56, 90	Eyre 71
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.					
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.					
Relevee: S. Jones.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	PORT VALE	(0) 0 LIVERPOOL
Johnson 47		Windass 19		16, 557	Owen 34 (pen) Ince 38, Fowler 90
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.				Port Vale: K. Pitkington, M. Walsh, A. Tancred, P. Betsley, C. Hodnett 7min), O. Basset, N. Agius, N. Bracco (sub: N. Bracco 87), O'Callaghan 87, I. Bogie, P. Gaskin, T. Taylor, S. McLean (sub: W. Corlett 84).	
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Booked: Pitkington, McLean, Bogie, Gaskin, Taylor, McLean.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	PORT VALE	(0) 0 LIVERPOOL
Johnson 47		Windass 19		16, 557	Owen 34 (pen) Ince 38, Fowler 90
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.				Port Vale: K. Pitkington, M. Walsh, A. Tancred, P. Betsley, C. Hodnett 7min), O. Basset, N. Agius, N. Bracco (sub: N. Bracco 87), O'Callaghan 87, I. Bogie, P. Gaskin, T. Taylor, S. McLean (sub: W. Corlett 84).	
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Booked: Pitkington, McLean, Bogie, Gaskin, Taylor, McLean.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	PORT VALE	(0) 0 LIVERPOOL
Johnson 47		Windass 19		16, 557	Owen 34 (pen) Ince 38, Fowler 90
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.				Port Vale: K. Pitkington, M. Walsh, A. Tancred, P. Betsley, C. Hodnett 7min), O. Basset, N. Agius, N. Bracco (sub: N. Bracco 87), O'Callaghan 87, I. Bogie, P. Gaskin, T. Taylor, S. McLean (sub: W. Corlett 84).	
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Booked: Pitkington, McLean, Bogie, Gaskin, Taylor, McLean.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	PORT VALE	(0) 0 LIVERPOOL
Johnson 47		Windass 19		16, 557	Owen 34 (pen) Ince 38, Fowler 90
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.				Port Vale: K. Pitkington, M. Walsh, A. Tancred, P. Betsley, C. Hodnett 7min), O. Basset, N. Agius, N. Bracco (sub: N. Bracco 87), O'Callaghan 87, I. Bogie, P. Gaskin, T. Taylor, S. McLean (sub: W. Corlett 84).	
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Booked: Pitkington, McLean, Bogie, Gaskin, Taylor, McLean.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	PORT VALE	(0) 0 LIVERPOOL
Johnson 47		Windass 19		16, 557	Owen 34 (pen) Ince 38, Fowler 90
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.				Port Vale: K. Pitkington, M. Walsh, A. Tancred, P. Betsley, C. Hodnett 7min), O. Basset, N. Agius, N. Bracco (sub: N. Bracco 87), O'Callaghan 87, I. Bogie, P. Gaskin, T. Taylor, S. McLean (sub: W. Corlett 84).	
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Booked: Pitkington, McLean, Bogie, Gaskin, Taylor, McLean.	
Relevee: S. Jones.				Relevee: G. Galbraith.	
Relevee: T. Peters.					
Relevee: M. Price.					
Relevee: T. Peters.					
CREWE	(0) 1	OXFORD UTD	(2) 3	PORT VALE	(0) 0 LIVERPOOL
Johnson 47		Windass 19		16, 557	Owen 34 (pen) Ince 38, Fowler 90
4,207		Murphy 45, 66			
Cream: J. Keenan, M. Bignal (sub: K. Lind 67min), S. Smith, L. Unsworth (sub: K. Storer 59), I. Foran, P. Chinnock, J. Wright, S. Johnson, H. Jack, C. Little (sub: P. Smith 73), M. Ross.				Port Vale: K. Pitkington, M. Walsh, A. Tancred, P. Betsley, C. Hodnett 7min), O. Basset, N. Agius, N. Bracco (sub: N. Bracco 87), O'Callaghan 87, I. Bogie, P. Gaskin, T. Taylor, S. McLean (sub: W. Corlett 84).	
Oxford United: E. Jackson, L. Roberts, P. Powell, A. Wright (sub: O. Smith 40), B. Williamson, M. Watson, C. Remy, M. Murphy, N. Barnes (sub: A. Thompson 86), O. Wardlow, J. Beauchamp.				Booked: Pitkington, McLean, Bogie, Gaskin, Taylor, McLean.	
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## **GOALSCORERS**

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FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 18 J Alois (Covington); 17 M Owen (Liverpool); 13 D Dublin (Aston Villa); H Ricard (Middlesbrough); 12 N Estate (Blackburn); D Middlesbrough (Man Utd); 11 C Armstrong (Tottenham); J F Hasselbaink (Leeds); G Poyet (Cheltenham); 10 A Cole (Man Utd); 9 N Anelka (Arsenal); P Berger (Liverpool); A Cottee (Leicester); R Fowler (Liverpool); E Heskey (Leicester); A Shearer (Newcastle); O G Solskjær (Man Utd); G Zola (Chelsea).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
FIRST DIVISION: 29 L Hughes (West Brom); 18 M Stewart (Huddersfield); 16 L Mills (Bradford); I Roberts (Norwich); 15 C Belanay (Norwich); 14 Onorato (Swindon); 14 A Akintobi (Bristol City); A Gunnlaugson (Bolton); 13 K Irons (Tranmere); R Keane (Wolverhampton); 12 M Bridges (Sunderland); P Groves (Gainsborough); D Windass (Oxford Utd); 11 D Adelola (Birmingham); 8 Angel (Stockport); D Dicchio (Sunderland); D Johnson (Prestwich); J Scowcroft (Prestwich).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
SECOND DIVISION: 17 M Stein (Bournemouth); 16 R Creswell (York); 12 C Asaba (Gillingham); A Payton (Bury); 14 A Remmell (Walsall); 13 S Barlow (Wigan); G Hoofield (Fulham); 12 B Hayles (Fulham); 11 J Curton (Bristol Rovers); S Gorler (New City); P Gray (Luton); 10 K Connolly (Wrexham); 8 Davis (Luton); 8 M Aldridge (Blackpool); C Coombes (Northampton); K Hogan (Preston); P Shaw (Mifflin); M Williams (Reading).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
THIRD DIVISION: 16 J Formster (Scunthorpe); 15 L Owusu (Brentford); L Peacock (Mansfield); 12 L Glover (Rotherham); 6 Partridge (Torquay); J Williams (Cardiff); 11 T Benjamin (Cambridge Utd); M Butler (Cambridge Utd); K Charley (Barnet); 10 R Barker (Brighton); L McKenzie (Peterborough); 8 J Alcock (Swansea); C Beach (Hartlepool); D Freeman (Brentford); J Marion (Brighton); J Paterson (Halifax); J Taylor (Cambridge Utd).																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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FA CARLSBERG VASE: Third round: Barkingside 1 Oldbury 7; Micklesover Sports 6 Bedlington Terrier 2.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR 1 Catherine 0; Chadderton 0 Salford 4; Glosport North End 4 Atherton Collieries 1; Kidsbridge 2 Ramsbottom 0; Maine Road 2 Leek CS 0 6; Presco Cables 6 Holker Old Boys 0; St Helens 8 Mossley 2; Vauxhall GM 0 Newcastle Town 0; Workington Booths 1. Postponed: Rossendale v Nantwich.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
ARINOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Town 5 Marpath 1; Consett 1 Marske 1; Crook 1 Stockton 2; Newcastle Blue Star 3 Guisborough 1; Southern Red Star 4 Jarro Roofing 1; Shildon 1 Billingham Synthesis 6; South Shields 8 Chester-le-Street 3; Tow Law 3; Dunston Federation 1. Postponed: Penrith v West Auckland.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury 2 Highworth 1; Bicester 3 Chichester Academy 2; Hallon 1 Burnham 1; Wantage 0 Kirby 1. Postponed: Didcot v Abingdon; Harrow Hill v Carterton; North Leigh v Banbury.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ely 1 Stowmarket 3; Gorleston 6 Gurney Town 0; Histon 1; Halstead 1; Ipswich 0 Soham 0; Newmarket 3; Norwich and Parkstone 1; Sudbury Town 0; Woodbridge 0; Walton 1 Feltonville Port and Town 4. Postponed: Lowestoft v Sudbury Wanderers; Melton v Warboys.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT 2 Afc Newbury 2; East Cowes 3; Whitchurch 2; Eastleigh 1 Bournemouth 0; Farnham 1 Tottern 4; Lympstone and Newton Milton 3; Downham 1; Thatcham 3; Portsmouth 1; Wimborne 2 Bemerton Heath 1. Postponed: Christchurch v Gosport; Cowes Sports v Hamble ASFC; Money Fields v Brockenhurst.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Amirthorpe Welfare 0; Denaby 1; Brigg 2 Hartlepool 2; Budon 2; Grasshopper Welfare 3; Ecclesfield 1; Liversedge 4; Garforth 9 Thackley 1; Ossett Albion 4 Staveley MW 1; Pickering 2 Malby MW 1; Pontefract Colts 3 Arnold 1; Selby 1; Ossett Town 2; Sheffield 1 North Ferby 2.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta 1; Arlesay 2; Harpenden 0 Brook House 1; New Bradwall St Peter 2 Hoddesdon 1; Potters Bar 1 Beaconsfield Sycob 3; Welwyn Garden 2 Milton Keynes 3. Other matches postponed.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Entled OG 1 Old Alythians 4; Glynn OB 1 Old Bucklowians 3; Old Hamptionians 1; Old Meadowlarks 2; Old Ignatians 0 Old Vaughanians 3. Senior first division: Lasymer OB 0 Old Kingsburians 2; Old Walsallians 3 Old Donkinians 2; Phoenix OB 2 Old Suttonians 1. Postponed: Old Men Hans v Old Religians; Old Tiffmores v Old Isleworthians.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 3 Eastbourne Town 0; East Preston 5 Halstead 1; Eastbourne Nessoc 2; Langney Sports 1 Whitehaven 1; Portslade 1 Horsham YMCA 4; Redhill 2; Pagham 1; Saleby 0 Littlehampton 1; Shoreham 2 Wick 2. Postponed: Broadbridge Heath v Ringmer. Second division: Arundel 1 Peacehaven and Telecombe 2; Crawley Down 1 Three Bridges 4; Miles Clem 1; Storrington 0; Withdean 0 Southwick 2; Worthing 2 Sidlesham 3. Postponed: Lingfield v Lameng; Newhaven v East Grinstead; Shirehampton Acolytes v Crowborough; Sidley v Oakwood. Third division: Hurst Oving SC 5 Iffield 1; Westaldes 6 Uckfield 0. Postponed: Forest Green Rovers v Gloucester Royal and Sun Alliance v Ainsty; Wealden Stourning. John OHara League Cup: Fourth round: Saltdean 4 Chichester 0.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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**Matt Jackson, left, of Norwich holds off Ritchie Humphreys, of Sheffield Wednesday, during yesterday's FA Cup tie. Report, page 27. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Allsport**

#### **NON-LEAGUE AND CONFERENCE**

## UNIBOND

Premier Division: Accrington Stanley 0 v Wrexham 2; Altrincham 1 Gainsborough 0; Bishop Auckland 1 Spennymoor 1; Chorley 0 v Tamworth 1; Emley 1 Manne 1; Fylde Gateshead 2; Grimsby 1 Runcorn 1; Lancaster 2 Blyth Spartans 2; Leigh RMI 2 v Whitley 2; Postponed: Colwyn Bay v Folkestone.

	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pts
Alnwick	24	13	9	5	42	20	45
Amber Bridge	24	13	9	5	40	23	44
Appleton	25	12	6	7	39	32	42
Barnet	23	12	4	7	32	27	40
Barnsford Utd	24	10	9	6	36	27	38
Barnsley	21	11	2	7	31	22	35
Barnsborough	25	10	5	10	36	35	35
Batchelors	23	8	10	5	46	36	34
Bentley	21	9	7	5	28	23	34
Bethnal Green	26	10	4	12	33	37	34
Beverley	25	9	6	7	33	29	33
Birchwood Utd	23	9	9	7	30	23	32
Blaydon	27	7	9	8	35	31	39
Blindfolds	27	7	9	12	34	36	29
Blythbridge	23	7	7	8	35	36	28
Blundell	25	8	10	10	34	43	28
Blyth Spartans	26	7	6	13	35	46	27
Bolton	21	5	10	6	27	31	25
Bolton	21	5	15	9	21	27	25
Bolton	21	9	5	11	26	36	23
Bolton	25	4	10	11	28	42	22
Bolton	24	4	5	15	21	45	17

First Division: Alfreton 2 Lincoln 2; Bescough 2 Telford 2; Droylsden 4 Belper 1; Burton 1; Fenton 0 Stocksbridge PS 0; Hucknall 4 Congleton 2; Netherfield Kendal 2; Kettering Town 3; Radcliffe 2 Great Harwood 1; Witton 5 Eastwood Town 1; Postponed: Crewe v Ashton; Matlock Town v Whitley Bay.

## DR MARTENS

Premier Division: Bromsgrove 1 Dorking 2; Cambridge City 1 Salisbury 3; Gloucester 2 Rothwell 1; Grantham 1; Halesowen 0; Hastings 0 Atherton 0; Leyton 0; Newmarket 2 Worcester 1; Bath 1 Ilkeston 2; Northampton 0 Boston 2; King's Lynn 4 Great Yarmouth 1; Stevenage 6 Merthyr 1; Postponed: Amersham v Crawley.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bromsgrove	25	17	5	3	59	21	56
Bromsgrove	20	10	10	5	43	27	40
Crawley Town	20	11	4	5	32	25	37
Crawley Trn	24	9	8	8	35	29	36
Cath City	22	10	5	7	31	19	35
Gloucester City	22	8	7	8	34	31	34
Halesowen	22	9	6	7	31	25	32
Gresley Rovers	21	10	2	9	26	29	32
Worcester City	22	8	4	8	22	28	31
Hastings	22	9	9	6	22	21	30
Halesowen	25	8	11	33	37	30	30
Histon Albion	22	8	3	10	27	31	30
Cambridge City	24	9	8	10	35	36	30
Weymouth	27	7	8	8	30	31	29
Merthyr	21	5	9	10	35	37	29
Scunthorpe	21	5	2	10	25	31	29
Amersham	21	5	2	10	29	33	23
Leedsbury	21	7	8	9	26	33	27
Southwest Town	20	5	7	7	20	27	25
Worchester	22	5	7	10	26	34	22
Gng's Lynn	21	5	13	3	26	35	19
Bromsgrove	24	5	3	18	25	50	16

Midland Division: Shropshire Dynamo 4; Solihull Boro 1; Stafford 0 Clevedon 0; Stamford AFC 1 Bedford 2; Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Newport AFC 0; Blakemore 1 RC Warwick 0; Postponed: Cinderford 1 vs Rugby; Evesham v Bloswick; Hinckley v Four Green; Redditch v Poges; Southern Walton; Andover 1 Corby 2; Brackley 2 St Leonards 1; Erith and Bedewards 0 Baldock 2; Fisher London 2 Basildon 1; Newport 10W v Sittingbourne 0; Round 3 Yeate 0; Postponed: Ashford v Dartford.

SOUTH EAST COUNTRIES LEAGUE: First Division: Bournemouth 1 Barnet 1; Brentford 2; Southampton Utd 1; Brighton 3 Swindon 2; Wycombe 0 Portsmouth 0.

## RYMAN

Premier Division: Aldershot 3 Dulwich 1; Battersby 2 Bromley 2; Cheam 3 Carshalton 0; Gravesend 1 Aylesbury 2; Hendon 0; Boreham Wood 1; Purfleet 0 Enfield 1; Slough 0 Heybridge 1; St Albans 1 Waller and Hersham 1; Sutton 3 Dag and Red 1; Postponed: Bishop's Stortford v Basingstoke; Hampton v Harrow.

	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pts
Aylesbury	21	13	5	3	36	17	44
Sutton Utd	21	13	4	4	41	27	44
St Albans	21	11	6	2	40	23	41
Purfleet	24	12	4	9	44	30	39
Bitternay Trn	22	11	6	5	30	21	39
Hendon	22	9	7	8	43	54	34
Aldershot Trn	21	5	5	7	42	22	31
Enfield	21	9	4	9	33	26	31
Boreham Wood	21	6	7	8	31	24	29
Gravesend	20	8	3	6	25	23	30
Dag & Red	21	6	5	9	41	33	29
Basingstoke	18	9	3	9	32	26	27
Harlow Boro	22	7	9	8	35	36	27
Chesham	21	9	3	10	35	39	27
Bromley	22	7	5	10	36	37	26
Dulwich	22	6	8	10	23	32	24
Carshalton	23	5	5	12	23	34	23
Slough	21	5	7	9	27	37	22
Hampton	20	5	5	10	23	42	20
Heybridge	22	5	5	12	21	48	20
Walton & H.	21	5	4	12	24	40	19
Bishop's S	22	4	7	11	31	52	19

First Division: Bognor Regis 0 Moresey 0; Brantree 4 Staines 0; Chertsey 4 Grays 2; Croydon 1 Worthing 2; Oxford City 3 Leatherhead 2; Wealdstone 0 Moldenhurst 3; Whyteleafe 0; Postponed: Barkingside 1 Uttoxeter; Pennant v Bordonham, abandoned; Romford v Hitchin. Second division: Chalfont St Peter 0 Banstead 2; Herlow 8 Met Police 0; Hungerford 4 Edgware 1; Leighton 0 Abingdon Town 0; Northwood 0 Windsor and Eton 1; Thame 1 Bedford Town 2; Witton Hamel Hempsford 2; Wokingham 0 Marlow 3; Postponed: Hartland v Barking; Hornchurch 0 Wivenhoe; Tooting and Mitcham v Bracknell. Third division: Camberley 4 Aveley 2; Cheshunt 3 Tring 0; East Thurrock 4 Ware 1; Epsom and Ewell 4 Croydon 2; Fawkham Heath 4 Dorking 2; Ford 2 Wingate and Finchley 3; Kingsbury 2 Horncastle 0; Lewes 2 Southall 1. Postponed: Glastonbury v Egremont; Corinthian-Casuals v Tibury.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Mansfield 0 Wolverhampton 0; Stoke 1 Walsall 1. Postponed: Shrewsbury v Lincoln; West Brom v Northampton. North East Conference: Scarborough 2 Scunthorpe 1; North West Conference: Chester 3 Stockport 3; Preston 3 Carlisle 0; Wigton 1 Rockdale 2; Port Vale 1 Bury v Wrexham; Tammer v Blackpool.

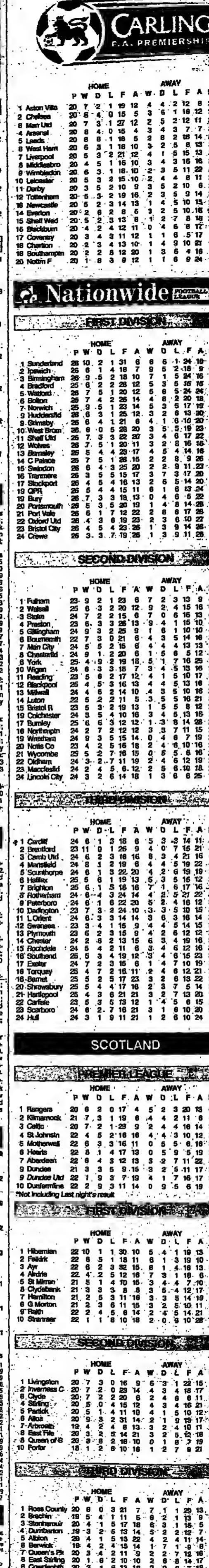
BANISTER'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristerley 0 Lassco 1 Mardon 1; Birstholme 2 Darlington 1; Gorilla 1 Thirlwall 0; Wolverhampton 1 Wolverhampton Casuals 0; Postponed: Cradley 1 Dudley Town; Lyne 1 Kinghorn; Merton v Stafford; Smethwick 1 Sandon; Walsall Wood v Ludlow; Westfield 1 Erdington.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bodmin 5 Willenhall 3; Chasetown 1 Stratford 1; Halesowen Harriers 1 Kings Norton 1; Knypersley 1 Petts Vale 2; Rushall Olympic 2 Stourport 3; Shapenhill 1 Shifnal 1 T 3; Wednesfield 2 Barnwell 2; West Midlands Police 0 Rosslee 2; Postponed: Sandwell v Boldmores 3 Michaels.

COUPAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: AFC Wellington 3; Walton Casuals 0; Ash 4 Cove 0; Ashton 1 Reading 0; Cobham 3 Vikings Sports 1; Cannington 1 Chelmsford 6; Neath 2 Bedfont 1; Sandhurst 3 Merton 1. Postponed: Chasetown and Hook v Feltwell; Raynes Park Vale v Godalming and Guildford; Westfield 1 Hartley Wintney.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND CONFEDERATION: Premier division: All matches postponed.

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## RUGBY UNION

# West finally take pleasure in home comforts

West Hartlepool ..... 21  
Wasps ..... 17

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

The crowd was barely a thousand, but Victoria Park resinated yesterday to the first home victory there by West Hartlepool, normally the whipping boys of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. Moreover, it was achieved against a Wasps side that contained 12 internationals who had humiliatated the bottom side by a record 71-14 three months previously.

It was a devastating display by a team who had last won at home in the first division in January 1997 at Brierley Lane, their old home, against Orrell. Mike Brewer, the West director of rugby, had been promising a "big one" and he and his charges memorably delivered at the expense of a Wasps side who had won on their past four league outings and were pressing Leicester and Northampton, the leaders.

Hartlepool United get Peter Beardsley one day and West win the next," one delighted supporter said. If West do manage to stay up in their own right or via the play-offs they will reflect on this second victory as the turning-point. Wasps, who have dropped back to fourth place, urgently need to exorcise the memory of this embarrassment when they meet Saracens at home on Wednesday.

West's only other win in nine league encounters with Wasps was at their former home in 1994. Last September, they suffered horribly at Loftus Road as the London side ran in ten tries. It was a case yesterday of the bitter bit in the sort of revenge scarcely thought possible, until the first concerted drive by the home side hinted at something spe-

cial. By half-time, West led 12-5 and the London side had spent all but a few minutes under siege, with few clues how to lift it. The second half saw no respite. Brewer led by example in the pack, West's defence across the pitch was impregnable for all but a few minutes at the end, and at full back, Emmet Farrell typified the defiant spirit and attacking invention.

West, a constant danger attacking down the short side, also put Josh Lewsey under enormous pressure by the superbly executed kick-and-chase tactic of Steven Vile. After missing an early penalty, Vile put the ball into the corner, from where Philippe Farrié grabbed possession at the lineout. Brewer drove in and the rest of the forwards carried James Ponton over the line.

Not only was it the first league try Wasps had conceded

**Results and tables** ..... 38

in three matches, it set the tone for a vibrant encounter. In order to try to stay up, West have invested wisely in such experienced practitioners from New Zealand as Duane Monkley and Shane McDonald, one a back-row forward who punches his weight, the other a hooker, although the scrum was where their one weakness was exploited.

Three times, Kenny Logan threw down his place-kicking leg in disgust after straightforward misses. This waywardness was symptomatic of Wasps' performance, until a series of six scrums on the West line. At tight-head prop, Steve Sparks was obviously struggling against Alex Le Chevalier, leading to a push-over score for Peter Scrivener, who was at the heart of the few things that Wasps got right.

Scorers: West Hartlepool: Tries: Jon Smart, Handley (30). Conversions: Vile (10). Penalties: Vile (2), 58, 69. Dropped goals: Vile (10). Try-scorers: Wasps: Schenck (2), Alcock (2), Groom (2). Greenstock (34). Conversions: Logue.

SCORING SEQUENCE: West Hartlepool: First: 7-0, 7-5, 12-5 (half-time), 15-5, 18-5. Second: 18-5, 21-5, 24-5, 27-5. West Hartlepool: First: J. Benson (S. John, P. Tongree, T. Handley, S. Vile, T. Monkley, S. McDonald, S. Sparks, P. Farrié, T. Colby (rep. M. Soller), J. Ponton, D. Monkley, M. Groom).

WASPS: J. Lewis, P. Sampson, L. Scott, A. Le Chevalier, R. Groom, S. Sparks, N. Logue, A. Tongree, M. Groom (rep. A. Groom), A. La Crevette, D. Marco (rep. D. Alexopoulos), W. Green, M. Woodin, S. Shear, A. Hodge (rep. E. Ballal), P. Voley, P. Schreiber (rep. E. Ballal), S. Vile. Referee: E. Marston (Bristol)



Sparks, the West Hartlepool forward, launches another attack against Wasps yesterday

# Understrength Saracens encounter little resistance

Saracens ..... 44  
Bedford ..... 13

By BARNEY SPENDER

AFTER their shock defeat by London Scottish a week ago, normal service was resumed at Vicarage Road yesterday as Saracens, despite being below strength, ran in six tries in a convincing victory over their struggling neighbours from Bedford.

With Wasps slipping up at West Hartlepool, it was enough to lift them to third place in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, but the manner of their win was still some distance from the kind of form that might see them pressurising the leaders come the run-in to the championship.

"We still have a long way to go in that department," Francois Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, said. "The title race is not as open as it was a few weeks ago, but we have still to play Leicester and Northampton away, so it's going to be very tough."

Their task is certainly made harder by the injury list. Without Kraan Bracken and Alain Pienaar, their half backs, they struggled for continuity behind the scrum and with Pienaar also confined to the sidelines, there appeared to be a general lack of communication.

Gavin Johnson, the regular full back, but drafted into Pienaar's position for this match, kicked two penalty goals and four conversions and grew in confidence as the game progressed.

It was indicative, however, of Saracens' state of health that only when Paul Turner, their 39-year-old backs coach who was recruited from Bedford at the beginning of the season, came on after an hour did they turn control into outright dominance.

The extent of the dead leg that is keeping Pienaar out of action remains a cause for concern, although he is expected to play against Wasps on Wednesday.

Even so, Saracens were just too strong. The players had been given a pep talk by Nigel Wray, the club owner, during the week, but it was probably the half-time words from Pienaar that produced the more immediate impact.

After a scrappy first half that brought them a couple of penalties from Johnson and a fine try by Richard Wallace, the result of a scaring break by Ryan Costello, Saracens cut loose. Leading 13-6, they increased their lead after five minutes. Brendon Daniel, a constant menace on the right

wing, set off down the touchline and was bundled into touch just short of the line. Troy Colker claimed the line-out and when he was held up, Paddy Johns, a half-time replacement, scooped up and scored.

Three minutes later, when Daniels danced his way through four tacklers to make it 27-6, the game looked up but a lapse by Matt Singer whose chip over the top went straight to Junior Paramore, gave Bedford some hope. Saracens, though, increased the pressure and in the last 20 minutes Danny Groomcock went over twice and Marcus Olsen once.

It was hard not to feel a measure of sympathy for Rudolf Straeuli, the Bedford coach, who has an almost impossible job in making his team competitive. They have a core of good players but with the assets of the owner, Frank Warren, still frozen pending his court case with Don King.



Groomcock two tries

the question of finance and its impact on morale is a sticky issue. Straeuli would not be drawn when asked if the club was being run on a week-by-week basis.

"There is some light at the end of the tunnel," he said. "But there is still no news on the financial side and, on the playing side, well, Hartlepool winning has not helped us. I think people can see that we are committed and that we deserve to be in the first division. We just need to win a few and we have to stay positive."

Referee: S. Thomas (Wales) Tries: J. Johns (2), D. Daniel (4), Groomcock (2), C. Olsen (2). Conversions: J. Johns (2). Penalties: Groomcock (2). Dropped goal: Groomcock (1). Try-scorers: J. Johns (2), D. Daniel (4), G. Groomcock (2), C. Olsen (2). Referee: S. Thomas (Wales)

SCORING SEQUENCE: (Edinburgh first): 0-3, 7-3, 10-3, 13-3 (penalty). 20-3, 23-3, 26-3, 33-3.

(Edinburgh second): (Edinburgh first): 0-3, 7-3, 10-3, 13-3 (penalty). 20-3, 23-3, 26-3, 33-3.

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

## Gallagher keeping feet firmly on the ground

London Scottish ..... 24  
Harlequins ..... 35

By STEVE FLEMING

AFFORDED the luxury of playing an away match at home, Harlequins made the most of the opportunity. London Scottish, who share the Stoop with Harlequins, failed to build on the win last week at Saracens and, in truth, gave their landlords an easy ride.

Harlequins have now won eight of their past nine Allied Dunbar Premiership first division matches but this was only their second away success of the season. Despite the championship form, John Gallagher, the Harlequins director of rugby, refused to get carried away with talk of titles.

He said: "We've got Northampton and Leicester at the Stoop in the next few weeks and we'll be in a better position to review our chances of winning the Premiership after those games. Our form hasn't been what it was before the international break and it's nice to be getting back to a good standard again."

Gallagher's side certainly are on the up, but Scottish never looked as though they would finish the game in front. Damian Cummins, the hooker, started a game for Scottish for the first time since September and gave Harlequins the ball at the lineout with wayward throwing three times in the first 20 minutes. Barry Irvine, the 16-year-old half who was the hero of the win at Saracens, showed his inexperience on a number of occasions with naive decision-making and received some bone-jarring tackles from Thierry Lacroix, before he limped off with a knee injury in the 57th minute.

Three penalties from Ian McAusland, the Scottish full back, to six from John Schus-



## Allied Dunbar Premiership: Robinson shattered by defeat at Gloucester



Tombs of Gloucester, whose decisive break set up the first of two tries for Cating, drives through the defence of Bath during his team's victory at Kingsholm on Saturday

Gloucester ..... 23  
Bath ..... 7

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ON THIS face of it, Bath have everything — financial stability, enthusiastic support and international experience by the barrel load — with 12 capped players starting the game at Kingsholm on Saturday. It counts for nothing that the confidence has gone, and Bath's has plummeted since November, the extent that they cannot perform even the fundamentals without error.

Richard Hill, one of their former favourites but now director of rugby at Gloucester, talked of the psychology of the team after watching his players inflict a sixth successive Allied Dunbar Premiership defeat on their fading West Country rivals. Everyone always wanted to beat Bath, perennial cup-holders and league champions, but few were good enough to do so; that desire remains but Bath, like an ageing stag, are no longer good enough to defend them off and find themselves clawed down.

The mystique of success is nothing more than a memory, revived only for a few flickering minutes in the second half when Adedayo Adebayo

retrieved a try and the Bath backs found an element of continuity. But there is no general to marshal them, no one to offer variety and their core players, those upon whom Andy Robinson relies most — Phil de Glanville, Dan Lyle, Jeremy Guscott — are either out of action, out of form or, as in the case of Guscott, one of the most heavily marked men in rugby.

"I feel for Andy," Hill said of the Bath coach. "He was brave

enough to take on the po-

soned chalice and that is what it was, because when the game went professional there was

only one way Bath could go

and that was down. At some

stage they will have to rebuild and Andy ought to be given the chance to do it. He will learn different coaching and man-management skills in this situation and if he were asked to move on, another club would benefit."

Robinson acknowledges that he has never been at a low ebb during his 13 years with

Harlequins. The scrum half, who ran in on the blind side after Chris Sheasby, he No. 8, found him with a clever reverse pass.

Scots face Gloucester at home tomorrow and will need to show greater application and imagination than this to prevent the West Country men gaining their second away win of the season as well.

SCORERS: London Scottish: Try: M. Hunter (27th), H. Hunter (29th), Conversion: F. Forsey. Penalty goals: McAusland (3, 9, 30), O'Leary (71st). Harlequins: J. Harries (10th), R. Edwards (17th), S. Bivins (19th), F. Doherty (20th), G. Estebay (rep. S. Cook, 60th), P. Johnstone, D. Cummins (rep. O. Robinson, 41st), P. Burchill, S. Schuster, M. Weeden, J. Harries, S. Fletcher, R. Hunter.

LONDON SCOTTISH: G. McAusland (rep. S. Forsey, 48min), N. K. Williams, J. Harries, R. Edwards, S. Bivins, F. Doherty, G. Estebay (rep. S. Cook, 60th), P. Johnstone, D. Cummins (rep. O. Robinson, 41st), P. Burchill, S. Schuster, M. Weeden, J. Harries, S. Fletcher, R. Hunter, J. Keay, 74th, S. Schuster, D. Lyle, T. Lacroix (rep. T. Keay, 45-49), N. Williams, N. W. Williams, G. Murphy (rep. C. Rodger, 72th), G. Harries, G. Lewellyn (rep. W. Davison, 60th), G. Morgan, Z. Broome (rep. R. Jenkins, 74th), A. Laach, G. Sheasby. Reference: S. Savage (Warwickshire)

PACKS win prizes. It is no coincidence that the two teams with the outstanding sets of forwards in the Allied Dunbar Premiership now jointly lead the first division.

Federico Méndez and Rich-

ard Metcalfe, both unhappy

at Bath and Newcastle, their respective previous clubs, were magnificent in their fight; focused driving. A hapless Sale were skinned like ninepins so many times it was embarrassing. In a 14-minute tour de force, Pat Lam's timing and finishing were precise for a hat-trick of tries, which conclusively proved his standing as the leading forward in the English game, while a dead leg hardly deterred Mat-

Bath as player and coach. He believes he has the support of the management board and the club owner, Andrew Brownsword, and that his squad has the ability to break the downward spiral, but this week could leave his season completely aimless. He must travel to Sale tomorrow, in the Premiership, without Nigel Redman, who was concussed and will be missing for three weeks, then take on Newcastle, away, on Saturday, in the Tetley's Bitter Cup — the only competition in which they have a realistic interest.

Privately he rail at decisions that went against his

team on Saturday, but he knows all too well how frequently 50-50 decisions favour the winning team — Bath had enough of them in his playing days. Gloucester achieved their highest league win over Bath because Hill has been able to convince a less talented squad that they must achieve new levels if they are to be anything more than a mid-table team. He has made unpopular decisions — selling Phil Greening to Sale, dropping Dave Sims, the club captain, and Scott Benton, the scrum half — but now his squad and the supporters can see why the decisions were made.

Cating, the full back, scored two of them and created the third for Terry Fanoula in a purple patch either side of half-time. With 40 minutes played, Bath trailed only 8-0 having faced a wind so strong that they declined even to try to kick at goal, but in time added on to let slip ten more points and, with the second half only two minutes old, relinquished a further five.

Cating's first came after a

splendid break by Richard

Tombs and a chip ahead by

Mark Mapleshoff that Ian

Balshaw covered but could not

ground. The second came

when Steve Ojomoh, who

enjoyed the most fulfilling of

games against his former

club, ran a decoy and Tombs

put Fanoula clear. Cating running in. For good measure the full back punished a missed clearance by Guscott by drumming past Balshaw and Richard Webster and dispatching Fanoula to the line.

In contrast, Gloucester

scored three tries and might

have scored two more. Chris

Benton returned on Saturday with a huge appetite for the fray. Mark Cornwell is playing the best rugby of his career at lock and in Neil McCarthy and Chris Forsey, Hill has two players who typify the old Gloucester, technically adroit and full of heart. McCarthy was part of a pack that were everything Bath were not: tight in the scrums, controlled in the lineout and playing as good a pick-and-drive game in the mud and the sleet as any coach could wish.

After the sorry defeat at Sale in mid-December, Hill sat

down players and management to rethink the direction of the club. "We have reached a stage where, to go further, we need extra effort, harder attitudes, the know-how to nail down wins," Hill said. He is receiving it. The entire team threw up a brick wall in defence that Bath could crack only once.

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# Dreary presentation is a monkey on Sky's back

**T**here is a sequence right at the end of *The Great Railway Bazaar* in which Paul Theroux, at last completing his interminable train journey around Asia, is overcome by violent soul-wrenching misanthropy as he heads homewards on the Trans-Siberian express.

Nothing serious. Just a deep and powerful loathing for all trains, all people who work on trains, all people who travel on trains and all humanity besides. "Monkey!" he shouts at the ticketman. "Monkey!" at the buffer attendant. "Monkey!" at some hapless fellow traveller.

I must say, I know how he feels, as the Trans-Australian

express of Test match cricket limps into Sydney. England's performance has suffered from leaves on the line and the wrong sort of snow, but just when you think things could get no worse, we get Ian Botham telling us about it.

"Monkey!" I shout at the shaving advert. "Monkey!" at the latest Sky promo — has any television network ever spent so many hours selling itself?

"Monkey!" at the beer advert.

"Monkey!" again at the car adverts.

It wasn't so bad on Saturday. True, I feel a bit monkeyish as the Waugh twins were doing their stuff, and doubly monkeyish at the thought of how many sub-editors would be sending down headlines about Spoils of Waugh and Theatre of Waugh and so on.

write about television that the advertisements are exempted from discussion; not really part of the experience. But we cannot avoid them. We even miss the odd ball to see them.

"Monkey!" I shout at the screen. "Monkey!" at the English cricketers. "Monkey!" at the commentators. "Monkey!" at the Barmy Army — I'm all for tolerant acceptance of other people's pleasures, but really, what is the point of standing in the sun for six hours consuming 20 bottles of beer and saying Barmy Army 200,000 times? Monkey!

And the adverts — the adverts. There is a gentlemanly convention among people who



But it is a fact of life that there is nothing about watching Australia bat that a few wickets will not cure, and Gough's hat-trick was the very stuff of television. Great sport, a great achievement by a man made for the medium. Gough's relish for combat is one of the great assets of the England team. Television needs athletes who cannot help but communicate their joys and their anguish. Botham had this gift when he played. What a pity he is as the brutish pervert, now he is a commentator. Sky have assembled a pretty drab team, and Botham is the Sky-borne emperor of banality. Monkey!

I have lost count of the number of replays I have seen of Gough waving a stump and shouting his hymn of victory to the departing Australians in

the last incongruous and victorious Test match in Melbourne. What was he saying? Answers on a postcard, please. I think I can make out two of the words, and the general tone of the oration seems to have been that Australia should go away.

Alas, they have not done so. Sunday morning's drawn start was one to make the most suicidal person 'monkey'. And the commentators were drooling on and on about the compensation format for the World Cup. I suppose the chaps were flagging a bit too, but their job is to try not to show it.

Then on and on about who will captain Australia in the one-day series coming up and whether or not it would be

ball, racing, going through the motions, making a stock response to a stock situation.

Alec Stewart, excellent chap that he is, is of the latter kind. So, alas, are most of the Sky commentary team. Mark Nicholas, shortly to be heading the new Channel 4 broadcasts of the home Test matches, has less of that than his colleagues, but it still doesn't place him in the Benard class.

Ah well. The Test series has had its moments, and it has been wonderful to have both the live action and the extended highlights. That is enough, really. I'm left feeling just a tiny bit like Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca* as the Test series comes to an end. At least we'll always have Melbourne.

'What chance did this backwater town have against those wide boys of Fulham?'

## Nutty charm of dwelling in the dingly Dell

I suppose if you visit The Dell regularly, the pleasure wears off. But I was so pleased to see that the advertising board at Southampton FC (remembered from two years ago) still reacts to each corner award with the legend "Don't Get Stuck in a Corner... Phone Posh Windows" that I got quite sentimental. What a sweet, dingly little place Southampton is. Yet until recently, quite honestly, who had heard of it?

"This is what the FA Cup is all about," I cheered myself. "Obscure little clubs like Southampton making a name for themselves, widening the horizons of their fans." Before the match, I bought some nuts from a woman in a shopping precinct. "In London, these would be double the price," I informed her, by way of chummy, price-of-nuts conversation. But she snapped back, "I've never been to London," as if I ought to know it. A salutary moment, as I think you will agree. What chance did this backwater town have against those wide boys of Fulham arriving this afternoon? Well, none whatsoever, obviously.

The inequity between the two teams was startling, from every angle. The Dell is smaller than Craven Cottage. Fulham have won 15 league games this season, Southampton three. Recently, Southampton recruited Hassan Kaichoul, a cheap Moroccan midfield player, from Metz, and because of the low terrain surrounding him, he has quickly become the Matterhorn of the outfit. Evidently, if you add up the cost of the Fulham side, it runs into the usual millions, whereas if you add up the cost of Southampton, it's the same as a bag of nuts. The home crowd is noisy and passionate, however, which is all the more of an achievement when you remember that every time something interesting happens on their pitch, they are enjoined to forget about football altogether and think about up-market double-glazing.

So the fairytale version of this third-round match on Saturday would have found David Jones's team nicking a draw in the last

minute and, good heavens, that's exactly what happened. The Cup is at its best, eh? Fulham went ahead after nine minutes with a classy goal from Steve Hayward, well set up by Geoff Horsfield. The London side dominated the first half with energy and invention, and moreover looked dashing in yellow. Southampton faffed about, ineffectually, in red and white. "You don't know what you're doing," chanted the Dell crowd. Evidently the supporters had a crazy notion (contrary to recent Worthington Cup evidence) that Southampton should be beating Fulham, instead



of the other way round.

Now, at half-time, with Fulham one up, it was time to consider what each team really wanted from this match. Fulham are at present very busy winning the second division: rationally, they might not want to dissipate their energies in the FA Cup. On the other hand, their "chief operating officer" is Kevin Keegan, who has been deprived of it for some time, despite his record at Craven Cottage. "Nice to be back," he told the BBC's Barry Davies on Saturday

— a giveaway remark, I thought, when he hadn't been away anywhere. Southampton, likewise, might prefer not to proceed in the Cup, since arguably they need all their strength to keep running on the spot at the bottom of the Premiership.

So the second half kicked off as a more complicated affair, as if everyone had been thinking too hard at half-time, and their brains hurt. Suddenly, Fulham were all defence and Southampton (albeit rather weedy) was all attack, although personally, I thought Fulham were still calling the shots.

"That's unusual," an equally suspicious Fulham fan beside me, said. "A Keegan side with six at the back?" Was this a case of shutting up shop? Or was it (ree-hee) a gilt-edged invitation to Southampton to explore the other end of the pitch, and try a few shots?

Well, it's only a paranoid suggestion. I have doubtless been mentally unbalanced by too many episodes of *The X Files*. All I do know is that Southampton did not improve, yet saw more of the action: and that as Southampton repeatedly failed to equalise in the second half, Keegan systematically substituted his best players, and in the 89th minute actually put on Paul Trollope — "the worst player we've got" being the heartfelt groan of the Fulham fan beside me — which is the football manager's equivalent of putting a gun in your own ear. And it worked.

Almost immediately, you see, in the second minute of extra time, the hapless Trollope goaded in the penalty box, kicking the ball against Alan Nielsen, his teammate, who was standing two feet behind him, so that it rebounded and fell neatly to Egil Ostenstad. True, Ostenstad was lying on the ground at the time, but it was still a gift. "For me?" Egil said, gazing up in disbelief, as time stood still. "Wow, thanks." And with a rather cunning horizontal shot, he equalised and was warmly thanked by Keegan rather than his own boss as he loped off to the dressing room a confused hero.



Hayward scores for Fulham but Southampton, the underdogs, fought back bravely to earn a replay in the bright lights of the capital

So was this all a clever set-up? Well, Jones looked a bit depressed afterwards, so no clues there. When asked whether Ostenstad's goal was lucky, the Southampton manager said: "No goal is lucky" — which can be taken in a variety of ways. Meanwhile Kevin ("nice to be back") Keegan looked suspiciously full of beans for a man who'd just seen his team throw away victory at the last minute. He mentioned as often as possible that in the replay at Craven Cottage on January 12, he hoped for a capacity crowd of 19,000. "If 19,000 don't

show up for such a match," he said, "we'll know we're wasting our time."

So Southampton's fairytale hopes are not over yet. The big flashy London team has given the little parochial side another chance. Southampton are known locally as the Saints, you know. Surely the whole country should get behind them before January 12, a bit like Rushden and Diamonds? Come on you Saints. Make the journey to the Big Bad Smoke on Tuesday week, don't be scared. Just take your own mats, that's all.

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## No place for bad language

From Mr A. Challoner

Sir, foul and abusive language has no place on the cricket field and it should be punished expeditiously by the offending player being sent off. Due to the length of play in cricket, this would need to be done in a different way to that in football. I suggest:

Immediately after the offence, the player is sent off the field of play and must not enter it again until six hours of further play has taken place. At that point he may return. If he commits a similar offence in the same match, he should be sent off for the remainder of that match. In addition, he should not be allowed to play in the next game in that competition.

There is another ploy entering the game that also needs to be stamped out. This happens when a batsmen starts his run and a fielding player (often with his back to the batsman) deliberately positions himself so that the batsman has to take a course out of the straight line, in order to avoid a collision. A possible punishment for this would be:

If the fielder is a bowler, he should not be allowed to bowl another ball for the next 30 minutes of play. If he is

## Early footballing achievements devalued

From Mr Kevin McIntosh

Sir, there is always something special in your Boxing Day issue and, with The Best League Table in the World... Evert, I wasn't disappointed.

But my beloved Sunderland were not even in the top ten. Why? Because the table awards progressively more points for more recent achievements. The magnificent early achievements of Everton and Aston Villa have been devalued. Eighty points have been awarded for a pre-first World War championship as opposed to 140 for a similar achievement in the Premiership.

You justify the criteria by stating that "the Premiership has brought the added pressure for teams chasing the championship of having to negotiate televised matches when their rivals

have already played and might have the points in the bag. It is also the age of the high-profile foreign import."

I cannot accept this and neither should any decent football fan. In 1897 Aston Villa achieved a remarkable league and Cup double, gaining 140 points in your analysis. However, if they had done this last May they would have been awarded 225 points, a difference of 115! I agree that standards of fitness and coaching have improved, but surely the achievement is the same.

Please reconsider and put my beloved Sunderland back where they belong.

Yours sincerely,  
KEVIN MCINTOSH,  
4 Torcross Way, Parkside Grange,  
Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 9PE.

Yours faithfully,

GEOFFREY BUBB,  
38 Berkeley Drive,  
Kingswinford,  
West Midlands DY6 9DT.

## Football salaries

From Mr Colin Riegels

Sir, Mr Nigel Phillips (letter, December 28) suggests that salary caps are a suitable way to control spiralling player's salaries in the FA Premier League and cites Headley as "this engaging Brummie".

Headley never was, and never will be a "Brummie". He was born in Stourbridge and enjoyed his cricket as a youth at the historic Oldswinford Hospital School in the same town.

Sadly, it is unlikely any such limitation would be legally acceptable in this country. Although salary capping is currently illegal in the United States, leading sports are allowed to do it either because of

## Pallister's road to fame

From Mr Victor Watton

Sir, As Gary Pallister's college RE teacher, I would like to correct the mistaken information contained in your article (December 19).

Gary told the economics teacher, who managed the first XI, to "sod off" and so was expelled from the first XI after one match.

I was in charge of the college second XI and found Gary playing centre forward on the "left-overs" (at this time the college only had two teams). I put him in the second XI as a centre back and we won the Cleveland Schools Under-19 B division title.

The economics teacher refused to let Gary back on to his team and so Gary spent his college career as a second division player!

Yours faithfully,  
VICTOR W. WATTON,  
15 Bedale Grove,  
Stockton-on-Tees,  
TS19 7QY.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number, e-mail, including postal address, should go to: sportsletters@the-times.co.uk

دیکسیسا

Ambition hoping bright n

## BOWLS

# Ambitious Potter hoping to mould bright new future

**David Rhys Jones**  
reports on the  
impact made by  
a man with  
clear intentions

THE ancient sport of bowls, which has been going through an identity crisis for the past 20 years or so, has, it seems, finally arrived at its destination — an upmarket leisure resort at Hopton-on-Sea in Norfolk, where the world indoor bowls championships get under way today.

Potters Leisure Resort, whose owner, Brian Potter, built a state-of-the-art International Bowls Arena to house the championships, is putting £1.3 million into the sport over four years.

Potter openly declared his aim of making Potters the centre of the world of bowls and made no secret of the fact that he wanted to entice the World Bowls Tour (WBT) away from the Preston Guild Hall for the International Open, which he did last October.

Now he has claimed the world singles and pairs championships as well — and the new event is bigger and brighter than ever. The record prize purse of £163,000, and a £25,000 cheque for the winner of the singles, may not put bowls in the same class as snooker, but it is not to be sneezed at.

The field for the singles has been increased from 32 to 48, giving the chance to more outsiders to break into the game's closely guarded elite, and the championships will last for three weeks.

The journey of the sport's

flagship event from the unpretentious Coalbridge bowls club in Scotland, where it was played between 1979 and 1987, to the Potters Leisure Resort, via Alexandra Palace and the Preston Guild Hall, is an interesting one.

It is as though the game, played by about a million people in Britain and in 40 countries through the world, has been searching for its spiritual home, not to mention its true identity. Is it a competitive sport — or a recreational pastime?

Part of the trouble with bowls is its image. It does not know whether it is a cosy recreation for people in cardigans, or a modern, sexy sport for athletes. In reality, of course, it is both.

A glance at the audience at Potters will confirm that most spectators are more than 50 years of age. They will look uninterestingly like an audience for Mrs Merton's chat show. That is part of the reason why sponsors are hard to find.

However, it would be wrong to condemn the sport because

old people watch it. The average age of the spectators at golf and snooker events is manifestly higher than that of the competitors, but they are not labelled games for old men.

Almost all the players on the portable rink at Potters will be under 40, and the winner is almost certain to be in his 20s or 30s. The last Potters user to win a televised bowls event was Terry Sullivan, who was 49 when he won the world title in 1985.

Bowls can give retired people something to do when they are too old for football, cricket or tennis, but these days no one who takes the game up in their later years stands a chance of competing at the highest level.

The BBC has been screening bowls for more than 20 years and is committed to the sport. It gets value for money because viewing figures are consistently good.

Bowlers themselves do not know whether it is a cosy recreation for people in cardigans, or a modern, sexy sport for athletes. In reality, of course, it is both.

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## SINGLES (seeded positions in brackets):

P Foster (Scot) (1) v O Corrill (Ire) or J Baker (Eng) (18) v T Alcock (Eng) or O Holt (Eng); G Robertson (Scot) (9) v R Weale (Wel) or O Le Mans (Jersey); W Richards (Eng) (8) v J Grenade (Wel) or N Collett (Wel); J Price (Wel) (5) v P Inglesby (Guernsey) or S Syms (Scot); M McNaughton (Aus) (22) v W Wood (Scot) or S Anderson (Aus); G Harlow (Eng) (13) v J Bond (Eng) or J Wong (Hong Kong); M King (Eng) (4) v A Marshall (Scot) or A Melton (Aus); C Thomas (Eng) (3) v N Burkett (SA) or J Ross (Ire); Schuback (Aus) (14) v I Taylor (Aus) or M Anstey (Wel); R Coakley (Scot) (11) v N Kennedy (Hong Kong) or Steve Potts (N Z); O Galloway (Scot) (6) v B Jackson (Eng) or J Miller (Wel); S Rees (Wel) (7) v N Booth (Eng); A Duff & P Eason (Ire) (10) v R Newman (Eng) (25) v S Gibson (Aus) or G Baker (SA); H Duff (Scot) (2) v J Henry (Ire) or J Rabbit (Irel)

## PAIRS:

Cormie & G Robertson (Scot) (1) v P Black & N Gibson (Ire); R Brassey (N Z) & Gibson (Aus) (8) v I Schuback & I Taylor (Aus); G Smith & A Thompson (Eng) (5) v G Dennis & M Roberts (Wel); O Courtney (Scot) & M McNaughton (Aus) (4) v L Gillies & R Newman (Eng); H Duff & P Foster (Scot) (3) v J Greenslade & R Weale (Wel); G Harlow & W Richards (Eng) (6) v N Booth (Eng) or N Burkett (SA); T Alcock & M King (Eng) (7) v G & G Campbell (Scot); J Price & S Rees (Wel) (2) v A Springfield & G Groce (Eng)

## ICE HOCKEY

## Rockman finds life rough at the top

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE Bracknell Bees' goal-scoring problems contributed to their surprising 9-3 defeat by the struggling London Knights in the Superleague.

In the absence of Mark Bernhard and Brian Greer, who are both injured, the Bees have been using Richard Gallace, on loan from Stouff Jetts, but Gallace was required by the Jets on Saturday and so the Bees used Greg Rockman, 16, of Cardiff Rage, the Devils' junior team, which plays in the English League. The youngster did his best but was playing at least three levels above what he normally experiences and the outcome was therefore hardly surprising.

The two points lifted London into seventh place, level with the Sheffield Steelers, who had asked for the game against Nottingham Panthers on Saturday to be postponed because of a flu bug. In the event, only Tony Hand and Teeter Wynne were missing, but several of those playing were at least 100 per cent.

Ken Priestley and Paul Adey exchanged first-period goals and the Steelers led 2-1 at the second interval, thanks to a goal by David Longstaff, who scored from close in. But the Steelers predictably ran out of steam in the third period and the Panthers took control with goals from Simon Hunt, Mike Bishop and Jason Werner.

The National Hockey League (NHL) is believed to be considering opening its regular season with two games in England next October, with the likely venues the London Arena and the MEN Arena in Manchester. For the past two years, two teams have visited Japan to open the season, but the NHL has been unhappy with the public response. The two teams likely to make the trip to England are the Los Angeles Kings and the Ottawa Senators.

## Adams makes most of indoor opportunities

By JOHN GOODBODY

FOR many years, even outstanding schoolboy cricketers never touched a bat or ball between July and the next April. Perhaps they might have had some odd matches during the holidays but for the rest of the year, the game was a fond memory — and an enticing prospect.

Not any more. Many talented players now practise regularly during the winter months in the indoor nets, which are becoming increasingly commonplace in schools. James Adams, the 18-year-old left-hander at Sherborne School, is typical.

Last year he scored a cluster of centuries for the Hampshire representative teams and also 106 against Pakistan for the Midlands Under-19 side. Having already played for England Under-17s, he has the potential to have an outstanding career as an adult.

However, cricket now demands a more regular commitment than Lord Shapard of Liverpool needed to give during the 1940s, when the former England captain was also a pupil at Sherborne.

Lack of snow proves no handicap, as Mel Webb discovers



Driving force: Tommy Carter and his canine colleagues make their challenge at a decidedly snow-free Cannock. Photograph: Richard Cannon

## Mushers dogged in pursuit of sledding

Dog-sled racing is a big sport in the frozen north of North America, but that is only to be expected. Whatever Alaska lacks, it is not snow upon which to race. In fact, the seven years that the British dog-sled racing championships have been running, it has snowed only once. But it has not put off these plucky men and women and their equally enthusiastic dogs.

With a new home in what is generally accepted to be the finest residential bowls centre in the world, bowls is committed to delivering the goods as a televised sport, albeit without scandals, controversial characters and media hype that is seemingly compulsory in other sports.

"Previous figures suggest that we will start our week on television (cameras will roll on Friday, January 15) with something around two million viewers on BBC2, and finish with upwards of three million," Gordon Dunwoodie, the World Bowls Tour's chief executive, said yesterday.

If his figures are correct, bowls is lagging only slightly behind snooker. The players will continue to amaze with their skills — and if Potters can stimulate a vibrant following for the sport, sponsors may begin to recognise its qualities.

ham, over the weekend. Deep and crisp and even is what they want, and their search for it continues in vain.

The solution, as it is for mushers in South America and just about anywhere else in the many other parts of the world where the sport has taken hold, is to abandon the runners of a sled and resort instead to wheels. The vehicles upon which they race are lightweight trikes weighing no more than 30lb, weird and wonderful tributes to engineering ingenuity, light alloy tubing and welding.

Or, they all have sleds, but they know that they will use them less frequently than once in a blue moon, and even if it does snow, they also know that, just as it was in such times for the old British Rail, it will be the wrong sort of snow.

"Snow in this country is awful, sloppy, wet stuff,"

J.M. Litman, one of Britain's leading drivers (known as "mushers"), said at the second leg of the British championships, held on a forest trail in Cannock, near Birmingham.

the human beings have in their dogs' hearing the commands for "left" or "right".

Between the dogs, the

huge majority of which are

Siberian huskies, and their

owners there is a profound re-

lationship based on mutual trust

and affection. Both know

that the other will never let

them down, and it is at once

thrilling and touching to

watch it in action.

T he dogs are magnifi-

cally muscular and sinew wrapped up

in dense, sleek coats of grey

and black and white. Capable

of pulling 20 times their

own body weight — a six-dog

team could haul a small saloon car at the same speed as

they can pull a lightweight

racing rig — they are barking, leaping, bunting,

bounding, barking, leaping, bunting,

SAILING: BRITON BROODS ON A TWIST OF FORTUNE THAT ENDED HIS HOPES IN AROUND ALONE RACE

# Golding pays heavy price for mistake

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SINGLE-HANDED ocean racing is a high-risk sport. The peaks can be of Everest proportions, the troughs worse than the depths of the deepest ocean. Yet reverses are always more bearable if events can be said to be out of one's control, as, for example, hitting an unseen floating object, losing a rudder or being turned over by an exceptional wave.

Herein lies Mike Golding's agony. Not only have his chances of winning the Around Alone race disappeared, but he cannot avoid the fact that the awful and un-



Golding cuts a disconsolate figure on his stricken yacht off the coast of New Zealand. Photograph: Mark Pepper

expected turn of events that put him out of the race happened as a direct result of his own mistake. It would not be an exaggeration to say the former BT Global Challenge winner is inconsolable at present as he tries to come to terms with the collapse of his campaign on a sandbar less than two miles off Cape Rienga at the top of New Zealand's North Island.

Not only was it his error that led to Team Group 4 being so badly damaged, but it could not have happened at a more agonising stage - the sailing equivalent of the beginning of the home straight on the last lap of a Formula One grand prix, with the cheers of the crowd and your pit crew already ringing in your ears.

Golding was not going to win leg two from Cape Town to Auckland but he had a firm grip on second place and would have been confirmed as overall race leader at the halfway stage with a margin of more than a day and a half over his nearest pursuer. All that was just 200 miles ahead when the boat came to an abrupt halt.

When we started this programme we decided to do the

Around Alone to gear ourselves up for the Vendée Globe in 2000, but the reality was that we found ourselves doing so well that I believed we could have won it and we were well on our way to doing that. To have lost all that in such a really stupid way is just mind-blowingly depressing."

Today, Team Group 4 is being towed to Auckland, where she will be hauled out and a decision will be made as to whether she can be repaired in time to take part in the next leg to Punta del Este, which starts on February 6. Under the rules Golding cannot qualify for any overall prizes in the race because he has now been disqualified from leg two for

accepting a tow of more than ten miles.

Despite his depressed state of mind, Golding would like to continue if the boat can be made ready in time. "We could still do well in the next two legs," he said. "Even if the prospect of an overall win has gone, we could create some sort of a moral victory and it's still good for me in terms of expanding my experience."

All black clouds end up having a silver lining for most us and the former Berkshire fireman cannot see one yet. "I suppose this is a test of character or a test of your resolve to do something," he said, "but at this stage I can't see a positive side."

ISABELLE AUTISSIER, of France, was yesterday confirmed as the new Around Alone race leader after bringing PR2 into Auckland and 57 minutes over Thiercelin with Giovanni Soldini in FILA, who was first to Auckland on Friday, in third place, after 24 hours 42 minutes.

For a moment on Saturday Autissier thought her luck was going the same way as Golding's when she hit the whale. "I was outside and I had a big shock," she said. "I could see a big whale, I could see the animal at the surface and he went off with my rudder."

With Mike Golding out of contention, Autissier now has a total lead of five hours and 57 minutes over Thiercelin with Giovanni Soldini in FILA, who was first to Auckland on Friday, in third place, after 24 hours 42 minutes.

"Why don't you keep out of my face?" he apparently said to the Englishman, who defended himself as the pair came to blows. When they were separated, Paul James, the Tigers' coach, incurred a technical offence for kicking over an advertising hoarding.

With no one of Arena's veracity to run their back court and no one to compensate for the absence of Jason Simon, their 6ft 9in centre who was still missing because of injury, the Tigers fell apart during the next five minutes. From being 79-71 deficit, they were suddenly 93-73 in arrears as the Sharks headed for their second victory of an encouraging weekend.

The winning margin would have been even greater had Julio Politi not added to his 28 points towards Tigers' 120-102 victory over Chester Jets on Saturday evening with another 18. His weekend haul of three pointers was a dozen, which was too many for the liking of Chris Finch, the Sharks' coach, who complained: "We kept on giving away big leads and we made hard work of the whole weekend."

Terrill Myers was undoubtedly a key figure for the Sharks, with 25 points last night and 26 the previous evening in the 84-71 win over Newcastle Eagles. Ahonen, who has 813 points, regained the lead in the overall World Cup standings over Schnitt, with 760. The Four Hills event ends on Wednesday at Bischofshofen in Austria.

**MOTOR RALLYING:** Julia Kleinschmidt, the first woman to win a stage in the Dakar Rally two years ago, took the overall lead in the third stage between Agadir and Tan Tan yesterday. The German took advantage of others' mishaps to win the 230km stage in Morocco.

**FOOTBALL:** Everton, the women's Premier League champions and beaten 1997 League Cup finalists, and Whitehawk, the Southern Division side, are through to the semi-finals of the AXA FA Women's Premier League Cup. Everton overcame Blyth Spartans Kestrels Marine FC's ground yesterday, winning 5-0. Whitehawk defeated Langford with two second-half goals.

SKIING: SWEDEN REGAINS PRIDE BY PRODUCING SURPRISE VICTORY

## Wiberg makes up for lost time

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PERNILLA WIBERG, of Sweden, made a stunning comeback yesterday to record the fastest run of the day and win the women's World Cup slalom with her first victory of the season in Maribor, Slovenia.

"I didn't think I could win because the time difference after the first run was too big," Wiberg, who was ninth after the first run, said. "I just thought I would be happy finishing in the top five."

The 28-year-old veteran, winner of three Olympic and five world championship medals, completed the two-run slalom in 1min 54.88sec for her 23rd success on the World Cup circuit.

Hilde Gerg, of Germany,

was second, just 29 hundredths of a second behind, while Kristina Koznick, of the US, was second after the first run, 50th to ninth.

"The course didn't hold up very well," Koznick, who cried on her trainer's shoulder at the finish line, said. "Even though I knew there were going to be many runs, I just made too many mistakes."

Wiberg, who had not won a race in two years, proved that she is still a force to contend with. "My skiing has been getting better and better each race," she said. "Now my goal is to win the worlds in Vail in February."

Meanwhile, Noriaki Kasai, of Japan, captured the third stop of the Four Hills Tour World Cup series in Innsbruck, Austria, to half the winning run of Martin Schmitz of Germany.

Only Jarmo Ahonen, of Finland, broke up a sweep of the top four places by the Japanese, who had been pushed into the background this year by the success of Schnitt, who burst from obscurity to win six of eight World Cup events he has entered this season.

It was Japan's first World Cup win of the season, as Kasai beat Ahonen by 23.5 points to 22.6. Hidemaru Mi-

yahira, of Japan, was third. Schmitz, 20, who had won the first two Four Hills in Germany in impressive style, faded to thirteenth. "I had troubles with my take-off," he said. "I'm a person, not a machine."

Schnitt created a course record of 12.5 metres in qualifying on Saturday but took a bad spill. Afterwards he caused a dispute by complaining about the slope conditions and lack of concern for the safety of the athletes.

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## Drewett's labour produces a show reel of angling beauty

Brian Clarke enjoys the content of a book to challenge the best of them

If John Drewett ever finds himself on *Mastermind*, he will have no problem picking a specialist subject; I suspect he could say "Hardy Brothers: The Masters, the Men and their Reels, 1873-1936" in his sleep and he probably often has.

Drewett, a London fishing tackle dealer and collector, has just spent the last 15 years researching, writing and privately printing a book of that title. It is a project no publisher could have risked commercially because of its scale and cost.

Reading, nevertheless, put up a spirited fight and on three occasions were only a goal behind after having raced into a 2-lead in the first seven minutes through goals by Slay, from a corner, and Ashton. However, a hat-trick by Ulrich in three minutes raised the spirit of the Danes, who soon established their superiority.

Vikings were 6-4 ahead at half-time and they added four more goals during their best spell of the match before Pearn scored two well-taken goals for the English side in the closing minutes.

Reading, who had won their group on Saturday, crushed Barford Tigers 10-2 in the last eight and then beat Harborne '94 in the semi-finals.

Vikings overcame Stourport 8-5 in the quarter-finals and then defeated Firebrands 10-4 in the last four. Firebrands defeated Harborne '94 in the play-off for third place.

Slay, of Reading, was voted the player of the tournament and Keegan, of Beeston, finished as the top goalscorer. Beeston won the plate final with a 5-3 win over Hull.

They had shops in the best parts of Manchester, Edinburgh and London. By 1901, they had been awarded their first Royal Warrant. By 1913, Rolls-Royce were parking their cars outside Hardy showroom.

Over the years, fathers,

sons, uncles, nephews and

laws moved into and through the business, the two brothers kept a steady grip all the while.

Even family held their jobs on merit.

By the 1920s, Hardy Bros

were supplying the

cream of fishing tackle to the

cream of the angling commu-

nity. Empire-wide. They sold

everything and made much

including magnificent rods.

Above all, they made reels.

It was his own obsession

with reels that wound Drewett

into his project. Today,

the tackle room of his home outside St Albans is like an

annex to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Gleaming glass cas-

es house one of the finest col-

lections of Hardy reels ever put

together. Old rods stand to atten-

tion on a revolving carousal.

Ancient landing nets fan out

across the ceiling.

"But it wasn't always like

this," he says. "I really only be-

gan collecting in 1979. When I

first thought somebody should

be writing a book about the

reels, I had no thought it

would end up being me."

In truth, what Drewett has

produced is less a monum-

ent, it is a slab of produc-

tion, as big as a headstone.

Even the cheapest hardback

version — it sells at £12.50, but

there are other versions availa-

## BASKETBALL

Expulsion propels Sheffield closer to the top

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE disqualification of Casey Arena, Thames Valley Tigers' high-scoring guard, hastened Sheffield Sharks to a Budweiser League victory yesterday that seriously threatens the leadership of Manchester Giants.

Arena, a 24-year-old American from Boston, and Adrian Anderson, were expelled from the game, which was won 108-92 by the Sharks, fighting as the third quarter ended. The loss of Arena, a product of the University of Maine, was felt far more acutely by the Tigers than the Sharks missed Anderson, who only comes of

quarter-finals. With three ends to play, Cumbria and Blackpool Newton Hall were all square at 68-68, but the Carlisle side scored a double, a treble and a four to win by nine shots.

Cyphers, 20 shots ahead of Folkestone, were inspired by Murlyn Sekier's maximum count of eight — the bowling equivalent of a hole in one — and went on to win by 19. In the Liberty Trophy yesterday, it was Gary Smith, Sekier's Cyphers and Kent colleague, who dropped an eight on the last end of Kent's

quarter-final encounter with Cornwall at Southampton. Cornwall went on to win by one shot and claim a place in the semi-finals against Hampshire. Devon, who led Leicestershire 40-14 after five ends, edged through 125-122 and will meet Durham, the champions, who proved too good for Cambridgeshire.

**HOCKEY:** Mel Clefow, the England defender, helped Canterbury to make an excellent start in the national indoor league when her 15 goals put them on top of the first division at East Grinstead Sports Club yesterday. But it was Linda Webb, from St Austell, who stole the honours with 16 goals for the second division team, including eight in the win on Saturday over Landsdowne, Loughborough Students, also undefeated.

Head the table with Clifton lying second.

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The winning margin would have been even greater had Julio Politi not added to his 28 points towards Tigers' 120-102 victory over Chester Jets on Saturday evening with another 18. His weekend haul of three pointers was a dozen, which was too many for the liking of Chris Finch, the Sharks' coach, who complained: "We kept on giving away big leads and we made hard work of the whole weekend."

Terrell Myers was undoubtedly a key figure for the Sharks, with 25 points last night and 26 the previous evening in the 84-71 win over Newcastle Eagles.

Manchester Giants, the league leaders, were occupied in the Uni-ball Trophy group game, in which they overcame Milton Keynes 79-61, but the league's third-placed club, Derby Storm, lost 51-76 to London Towers.

Latest positions ..... 38

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## ATHLETICS

# Champions who benefit from help in long run

**LAURE RAMPLING**, an Essex policeman, has run the London Marathon for a variety of charities. He has raised thousands of pounds for leukaemia research, thousands more for a children's hospice, and has helped to send a British boy with cerebral palsy to an institute in Hungary for treatment. Lately, though, Rampling has changed tack, for which he makes no apology.

While those he has assisted in the past might be perceived as more deserving causes, Rampling is not taking lightly his responsibility to the Ron Pickering Memorial Fund. It is a charity that raises money for promising young athletes and among those who benefited their youth are Iwan Thomas and Denise Lewis, Britain's athletes of the year.

"Perhaps it is not as important as helping out a cancer charity, but it is important," Rampling said. "This is a good direction to move in. These are young athletes who would normally get assistance without help of this kind. Some of these kids are from deprived backgrounds."

"You look at the cancer and children's charities and think, by doing this, you are not helping people who are afflicted in some way but those who are strong and healthy, but it makes us all feel good to see people like Iwan Thomas do what he did this year."

As teenagers, Thomas was helped for three years, Lewis for two. Steve Smith, the Great Britain men's team captain, and Jamie Baileigh, the British indoor record-holder for 400 metres are others who were assisted by the Pickering fund before taking their names.

The numbers are staggering: 54 aid beneficiaries were in action in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur last summer and another 28 took part in the world junior championships in Annecy, France. "The charity would not be in existence if it was not for the Flora London Marathon," Jean Pickering who runs it, said.

"If Britain was to come away from the Olympics with

**David Powell** on the importance of charities in promoting the development of Britain's top athletes

a dozen gold medals, we would all enjoy the glow of that achievement." Rampling said. "I sat on the edge of my seat at Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell won gold and it brought a lump to my throat. We need to help these young people to bring accolades to our country."

Some £40,000 is distributed each year to young athletes by the Pickering fund, set up in



Thomas' achievements



Lewis' assistance

**THE TIMES**

# news first

News as it happens

A unique resource from The Times website.  
Breaking ticker-tape news throughout the day from  
7am to 10pm backed by bulletins and previews  
of tomorrow's offline and online editions



Radcliffe, second from the right, leads the Great North cross-country race. Wami, the winner, is on the left

## Ethiopians run off with honours

**MILLION WOLDE** and **Gete Wami**, of Ethiopia, produced superb performances against high-quality fields to win the Great North cross-country race at Durham.

The pair were outstanding in the second International Amateur Athletic Federation World Cross Challenge fixture of the season, which included Jon Brown and Paula Radcliffe, both of Britain.

Wolde, 19, who trains with his countryman, Haile Gebrsellasie, showed all the hallmarks that already have him pencilled in as a natural successor to the world record-holder at 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres by winning his 9km contest in 27min 02secs, two seconds quicker than Thomas Nyarki, of Kenya, who was a second ahead of Brown.

The good news for the Britain selectors is that Brown wants to represent his country in the World Cross Championships at Belfast in March. The runner declared himself satisfied with his performance. "I have won here for the last two years, but I think this is possibly my best ever run in this event," he said.

The Durham meeting has also been a happy hunting ground for Radcliffe, whose wins in 1993 and 1995 announced her arrival on the senior international scene, but she could finish only fourth on Saturday.

Wami ran the 6.5km course in 21min 51secs, 13 seconds ahead of the Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion, Jacqueline Maranga, of Kenya, and 19 seconds in front of Anne Marie Sandell, of Finland.

Radcliffe, who was a further eight seconds behind, blamed her disappointing result on a bug. "To be honest, I thought I would be struggling earlier in the race," he said. "I felt good for the first three laps, but when Wami put her foot down I couldn't respond and she went away."

John Maycock was furious with himself and a steward after misjudging the finish of his 3km race. He and Philip Tulba, of Basingstoke, thought they were on their last lap when they still had another to run.

"It was diabolical," said Maycock. "I know I should have been counting the laps but I was racing to win. When the steward opened the tape and ushered us towards the finishing straight I just went for it."

Results, page 38

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Two good players made mistakes on the first trick of this deal, a godsend for a bridge writer - none of them irretrievable rooting through the dunghill to unearth a gem at trick eleven.

Dealer North

Love all      Rubber bridge

♦ J102	♦ AQ76	♦ K9853	♦ AQ9843
♦ Q	♦ A975	♦ K9853	♦ Q985
♦ 32	♦ A74	♦ K5	♦ J6
♦ 76	♦ K109543	♦ AJ2	♦ KJ1084
♦ 32	♦ A74	♦ Q102	♦ Q102

W N E S

1C 2D 2S 3NT

1H All Pass

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: seven of spades.

On the lead of the seven of spades the declarer [Howard Cohen] played the jack from dummy. East (Tom Townsend) covered with the queen and Cohen won with the king. Now after taking his diamonds he had to play a club and West went in with the ace to play another spade, enabling East to cash five tricks in the suit for two off.

Do you see the errors on the first trick? As East is playing his partner to hold a doubleton spade, he should just duck the first spade, preserving the defence's communication. However, once East has covered the jack of spades South should have withheld his king. Now the defence cannot run the spades, but it is not all over. East switches to a heart, which West wins and returns a heart. Declarer has seven

tricks in the red suits and needs two more. The problem is that if he plays on clubs he may have to lose two tricks there. But if he plays spades first East can win and clear the hearts.

The solution is to start by cashing the king and ace of diamonds. When the suit breaks 2-2, it is likely that East has a 6-3-2-2 shape. So declarer continues with a club to the queen. If West wins and returns a club declarer can rise with the king. Here the jack falls but even if it doesn't, provided East has no more than two clubs declarer can play spades safely to set up his ninth trick.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ROMPU

- a. Mutual enjoyment
- b. Interrupted
- c. A secret organisation

HYPPOID

- a. Many-sided
- b. A disease
- c. Gearing

BEGUINES

- a. Dancers
- b. Mendicants
- c. Pious women

LAMPASSETTE

- a. A scalpel
- b. Damask
- c. Stage-lighting

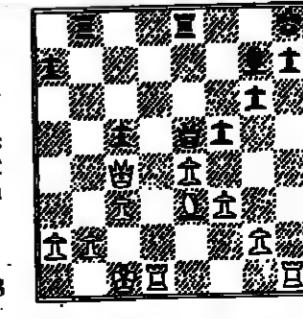
Answers on page 43

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Pavlovic - Karapanos, Ponormo 1998.

The black position appears to be the more aggressive but White broke through with a fine combination. How?



Solution on page 43

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

### Arizona upset Cowboys' wagon

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ADRIAN MURRELL scored one touchdown and ran 74 yards to set up another on Saturday, leading the Arizona Cardinals to a 20-17 upset of the Dallas Cowboys, their first play-off victory in 52 years. The Cowboys had won nine matches in a row over the Cardinals, who now advance to a National Football Conference quarter-final next weekend away to Minnesota Vikings.

Aeneas Williams intercepted two passes for Arizona, who had not beaten a team with a winning record all season until stunning the Cowboys.

"I went out like David did," Williams said. "All he had was a slingshot. I had the Arizona Cardinals. This group of guys has fought all season. Nobody gave us credit. Credit must be earned. We earned it."

Jake "The Snake" Plummer passed to Murrell for Arizona's first touchdown after 12min 13sec. Chris Jack adding a 37-yard field goal to give Arizona a 10-lead at the break. Murrell beat the Dallas defense on the third play of the second half to set up Plummer's touchdown pass to Larry Centres and Jack added a 46-yard field goal.

In the other play-off match, the American Football Conference contest between the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills, Trace Armstrong, of Miami, snuffed out Doug Flutie's anemic rally in the final seconds as the Dolphins ended a three-game play-off losing streak to Buffalo with a 24-17 victory in Miami. The Dolphins' first play-off victory since 1994 leaves them with a quarter-final match at either Denver or the New York Jets.

Flutie completed 21 of his 36 passes for a career-high 360 yards against the Dolphins, but the Bills were turned over five times. The most crucial came at the Miami five-yard line, when Flutie hesitated as he looked for a receiver and Armstrong knocked the ball loose. Shane Burton recovered with nine seconds to play to clinch the victory for Miami.

Results, page 38

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Bunched field

After the early rounds of the Hastings Premier tournament the race for the lead is intense with only half a point separating the leaders Sokolov and Shipov from the pursuing pack. In the fourth round Sokolov struck an important blow by defeating Shipov in a highly theoretical line of the Grunfeld Defence where White's initiative turned out to be insufficient to compensate for his lost pawn.

White: Sergei Shipov  
Black: Ivan Sokolov  
Hastings Premier 1999

Grunfeld Defence

1 d4	Nf6	Bg7
2 c4	d5	Rd7
3 Nc3	e5	Bf6
4 e3	Ng5	a3
5 e4	Nc3	Kg7
6 b3	Bg7	Rh8
7 Nf3	g5	h6
8 Rb1	0-0	g4
9 Be2	Qe5	Qd5
10 Bd2	Qd4	Qd2
11 cxd4	Qxd4	Qd2
12 0-0	Qd4	Qd4
13 Bg4	h5	h5
14 Bf4	g5	g5
15 Bg7	g4	g4
16 Bg3	g3	g3
17 h4	Qd6	Qd6
18 h5	Qd5	Qd5
19 d5	Qd3	Qd3
20 Rxf3	Qd4	Qd4
21 d6	e5	e5
22 d7	Qd6	Qd6
23 Bg4	Qd5	Qd5
24 Rb1	Qd4	Qd4
25 Re1	Qd5	Qd5
26 Bf5	Rd8	Rd8
27 Be4	Qd6	Qd6
28 Qh5	f5	f5
29 Bd3	Rd7	Rd7
30 Rbc1	Qh6	Qh6
31 Qg6	Bah6	Bah6

Matthew Sadler, the British grandmaster, is one of those in the hunt for the lead, while grandmaster Jon Speelman has a respectable 50 per cent. However, Tony Miles is languishing without a single win whilst local grandmaster James Plaskett is at the bottom of the table, equal with the French representative, Fressinet, with two losses and no wins.

### Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is [keene@chessao.com](mailto:keene@chessao.com). The best contributions from *Times* readers will be published either here or in the Saturday *Times* Weekend column.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Saturday:  
APC Wild-card games: Miami 24 Buffalo 17.  
NFC wild-card game: Dallas 7 Arizona 20.

COLLEGE BOWL MATCHES: Sugar:

Cno 24 Texas A&M 14 Orange: Florida

St 1 Syracuse 10

BASKETBALL

BALESTRIERI, Leagues: Saturday: Lon-

don Traders 81 Derby 76 Newcastle

Eagles 71 Sheffield Sharks 84 Thame Valley

Tigers 120 Chester Jets 102 Yeovil

Worcester Riders 185 Thames Valley

Tigers 92

Manchester Giants 17 10 1 L Pts

Sheffield Sharks 16 11 5 19 32

Thames Valley Tigers 17 11 5 19 32

Birmingham Bullets 17 10 7 19 32

Newcastle Eagles 16 8 9 18

Greater London Riders 16 6 10 12

Cheshire Jets 14 4 13 18

Edinburgh Rocks 14 3 11 8

Milton Keynes Lions 14 3 13

UNIBALL TROPHY: Group A Saturday:

Manchester Giants 75 Milton Keynes Lions

01 Worthing Jets 77 London Knights

P W L Pts

Sheffield Sharks 7 5 1 6 12

Chester Jets 0 4 1 2 8

Derby Valley Giants 6 5 2 9 14

Leicester Riders 8 4 2 3 9

Thames Valley Tigers 16 5 2 3 9

Milton Keynes Lions 14 3 1 12

Edinburgh Rocks 14 3 13

Total (21 wins, 18 losses) 92

## BOWLS

## INTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Div 1: St Albans 100

Div 2: Lee 7-1-1-4, Denton 6-0-7-1

Div 3: Lee 7-1-1-4, Denton 6-0-7-1

Div 4: Lee 7-1-1-4, Denton 6-0-7-1

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Div 104: Lee 7-1-1-4, Denton 6-0-7-1

Div 105: Lee 7-1-1-4, Denton 6-0-7

RACING: DUBAI STABLE BROADENS HORIZONS TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

# Godolphin recruits Argentine star

By CHRIS MCGRATH

**T**HREE weeks ago, the Godolphin venture across yet another new frontier this week by welcoming their most exotic recruit. Lignify, a top middle-distance horse in Argentina, was yesterday confirmed to be on her way to join Sheikh Mohammed's team in Dubai. After a year of marvellous international achievement in 1998, Godolphin has begun the new year emboldened in its determination to make all the racing world its stage.

The retirement to stud of Swain, a colossus who truly bestrides that stage, would awaken even the most complacent of bloodstock superpowers to the need for reinforcement. A hallmark of the Godolphin revolution, however, has always been its restless ambition.

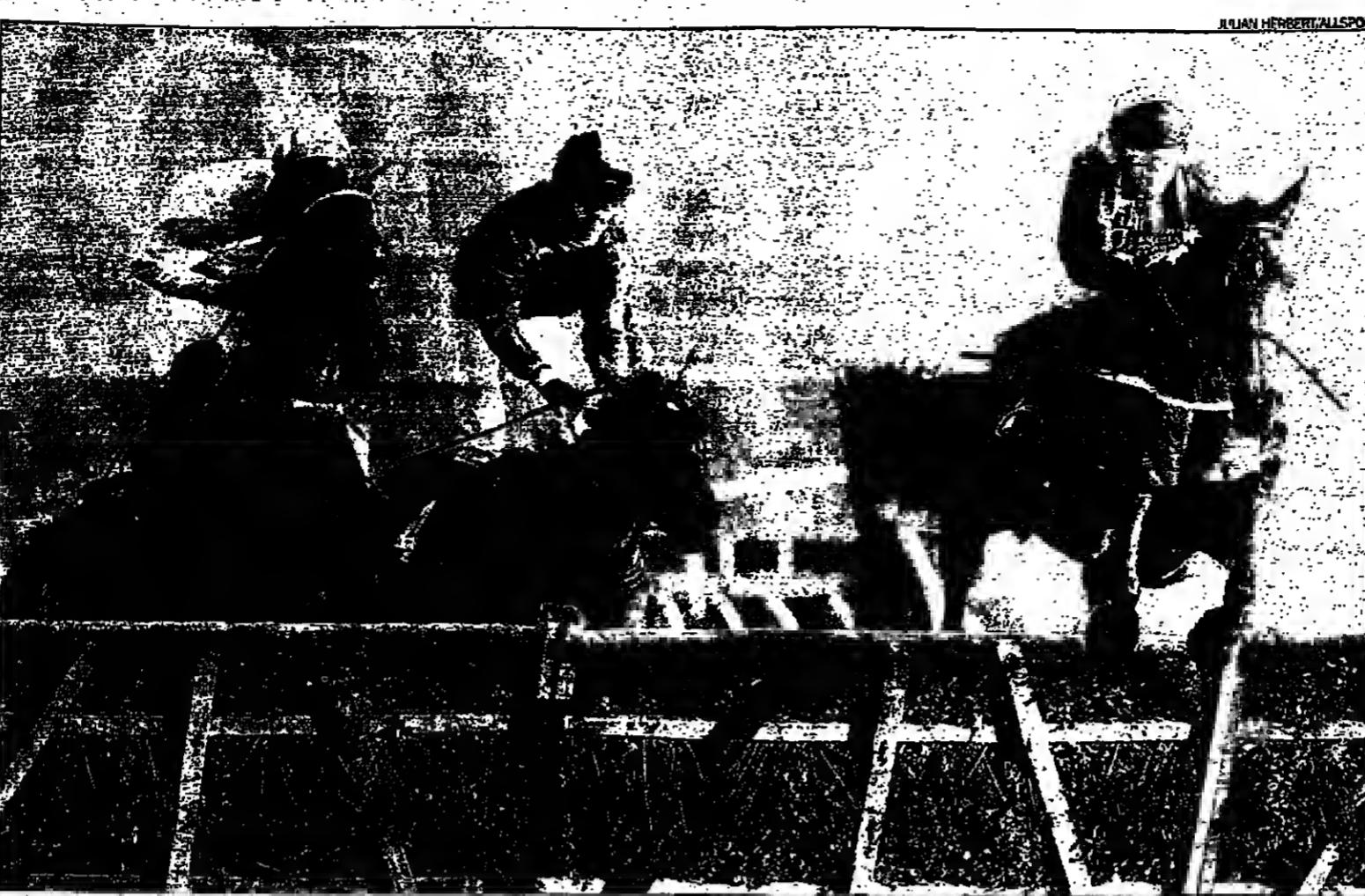
The arrival of Lignify serves not only to enhance its uniquely cosmopolitan complexion, after the purchase in the autumn of two leading juveniles in the United States. It also testifies to the imagination and boldness that continue to inspire the whole enterprise.

Gentlemen, who emerged from Brazil to become one of the top older horses in the United States over the last two years, offered evidence of the potential riches lurking in a largely untapped seam of thoroughbreds in South America.

Lignify, a daughter of Confidential, had foaled in 1994, was second in the Argentinian Oaks before last year winning a group two event over ten furlongs and a group one over a mile and a half.

Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, disclosed yesterday that Lignify could be another card shuffled by the "home team" in the fourth Dubai World Cup on March 28 (others include High-Rise, Xaar and Limpid).

"Obviously, we'll give her



King's Road, right, lands the middle leg of a hurrying treble for trainer Nigel Twiston-Davies and jockey Carl Llewellyn at Newbury on Saturday

time to acclimatise, but we want to run her out here," Crisford said. "She will be entered in the World Cup and pointed towards the race — we'll just have to see how she shapes up. There are other races, such as the Dubai Duty Free, that she could go for. Then she will either go to Europe or North America. She looks a nice filly and horses in Argentina tend to stand plenty of racing. Obviously, she has shown herself a

top performer over there; the question is whether she can make the transition."

Crisford identifies Lignify as the latest chapter in the evolution of Godolphin as a global force. "We want to be recognised as an international stable," he said. "It's just as important for us to have runners in Japan, Hong Kong and North America, as it is in Europe and in the big races in England. Though we're based

in England in the summer, we regard ourselves not as an English stable but very much as a Dubai stable."

That the fulcrum is Dubai, rather than the senior squad's summer home at Moulton Paddocks in Newmarket, will be increasingly evident this year, with David Loder freshly installed at Evry in France to train a big team of juveniles for Godolphin. The two American recruits, Worldly Manner and Comeonmorn, could meanwhile be prepared for the Kentucky Derby. Comeonmorn recorded the fastest time in 12 years when winning the Aqueduct race used as a stepping stone by two recent Derby winners. For British punters, however, there may be an even more interesting filly than Lignify joining Saeed bin Suroor. It is understood that Godolphin is in the process of purchasing Kiltling, impres-

sive winner of a Doncaster maiden in October, from Khaled Abdulla.

By Nashwan. Kiltling is from the same family as Sangamore and should have plenty of stamina, but she managed to accelerate four lengths clear of 15 rivals over seven furlongs at Town Moor. Barry Hills will run her loss as she looks to have the potential to enter calculations for the Vodafone Oaks.

## Newbury off as casualties mount

**T**HE meeting at Newbury today has been abandoned. Heavy overnight rain and the forecast of more to come forced officials to call off the fixture yesterday. Richard Prudham, the clerk of the course, said: "We had 12mm of rain overnight, there is a huge amount coming down now and there are more forecasts, so it was hopeless."

Newton Abbot's fixture tomorrow has also been abandoned. Michael Trickey, the clerk of the course, said yesterday: "We've had 1½ inches of rain overnight and the course is waterlogged. It's impossible to race, so we have decided to abandon early."

Newton Abbot's fixture for Boxing Day also fell to the wet.

### RICHARD EVANS

THUNDERER	
12.40	The Flying Doctor
2.10	Rockforce
2.40	Capsoff
1.10	See Enough
3.10	First Instance (nap)
1.40	Saled
3.40	Topanga

BETTING: 2.50 Distant Storm.

### GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

### 12.40 DAW SWINDEN'S SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(1) 576: 2m 6f 110yds (6 runners).

1. DIPPY THE FLYING DOCTOR 19 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 9-11-10 - W Mardon  
2. SEE ENOUGH 20 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 9-11-10 - W Mardon  
3. 4514-4 DAUPHIN BLEU 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)  
4. 4514-5 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)  
5. 4514-6 DAZZLING DAY 40 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)  
6. 4514-7 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

7. 4514-8 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

8. 4514-9 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

9. 4514-10 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

10. 4514-11 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

11. 4514-12 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

12. 4514-13 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

13. 4514-14 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

14. 4514-15 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

15. 4514-16 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

16. 4514-17 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

17. 4514-18 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

18. 4514-19 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

19. 4514-20 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

20. 4514-21 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

21. 4514-22 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

22. 4514-23 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

23. 4514-24 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

24. 4514-25 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

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31. 4514-32 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

32. 4514-33 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

33. 4514-34 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

34. 4514-35 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

35. 4514-36 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

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43. 4514-44 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

44. 4514-45 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

45. 4514-46 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

46. 4514-47 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

47. 4514-48 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

48. 4514-49 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

49. 4514-50 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

50. 4514-51 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

51. 4514-52 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

52. 4514-53 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

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55. 4514-56 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

56. 4514-57 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

57. 4514-58 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

58. 4514-59 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

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61. 4514-62 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

62. 4514-63 THE FLYING DOCTOR 21 (GB) (Kingsgate) P Davies 10-11-10 - W Mardon

63. 4514-64 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

64. 4514-65 GREENBEE CATY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

65. 4514-66 WESTERN RUMBLE 44 (IRE) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

66. 4514-67 DAZZLING DAY 20 (Ire) D'Urso 1. A Dux 9-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)

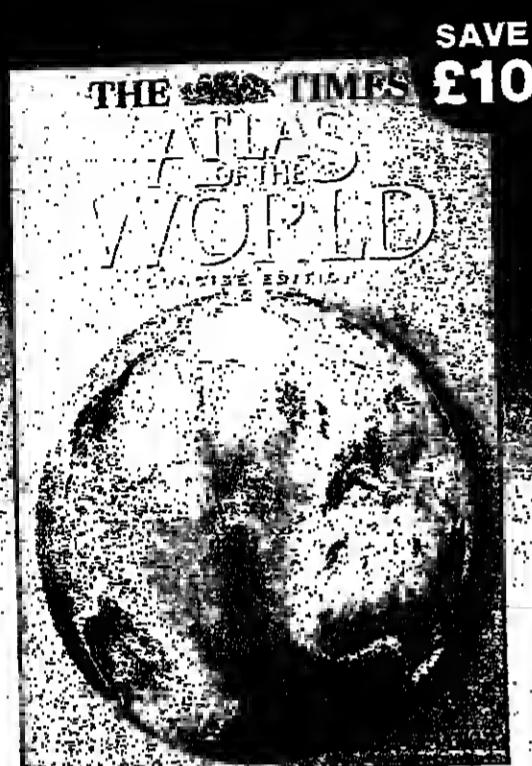
67. 4514-68 GENTLE CAPTAIN 21 (GB) (D'Urso) E Eccles 13-10-13 - Miss V Roberts (2)</

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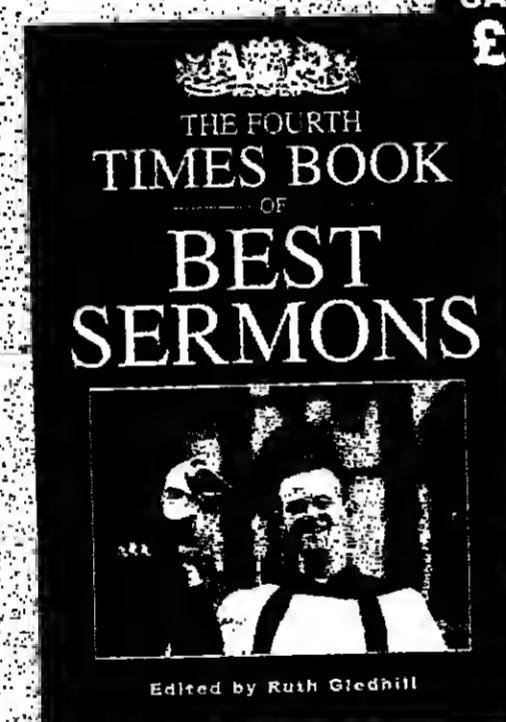
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## Law Report January 4 1999 Court of Appeal

**Dismissal in breach of sick pay term after pregnancy unfair**

**Halfpenny v IGE Medical Systems Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Robert Walker  
Judgment December 18

An employee who had been on maternity leave, but who was dismissed when she was unable through post-natal depression, to return to work at the end of the statutory period of extended maternity absence, was wrongfully and unfairly dismissed and had been subjected to unlawful sex discrimination since she had not exhausted her contractual entitlement to sick pay when she was dismissed.

The right to return to work within 28 weeks of pregnancy became complete and effective when proper notice was given. Once she gave notice, the employee's contract of employment revived so that whether or not her failure to return on the due date put her in breach of the contract depended on its terms.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the employee, Mrs Marion Halfpenny, against the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (1997) ICR 1007 of her appeal from the dismissal by a Manchester industrial tribunal of her complaint that she had been

unfairly dismissed and unlawfully discriminated against the ground of sex by her employers, IGE Medical Systems Ltd.

Section 71 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, replacing section 23 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, provides:

"(1) An employee who is absent from work at any time during her maternity leave period is... entitled to the benefit of the terms and conditions of employment which would have been applicable to her if she had not been absent (and had not been pregnant or given birth to)

(2) Section 73 of the 1996 Act defines the period of maternity leave as 'weeks from the commencement of the period until the birth of the child'.

Section 79 of the 1996 Act provides:

"(1) An employee who - (a) has the right conferred by section 71, and (b) has, at the beginning of the eleventh week before the expected week of childbirth, been continuously employed for a period of not less than two years, also has the right to return to work at any time during the period beginning at the end of her maternity leave period and ending twenty-nine weeks after the beginning of the week in

which childbirth occurs.

"(2) An employee's right to return to work under this section is the right to return to work with the person who was her employer before the end of her maternity leave period, or, (where appropriate) his successor, in the job in which she was employed.

(3) (a) On terms and conditions as to remuneration not less favourable than those which would have been applicable to her had she not been absent from work at any time since the commencement of her maternity leave period;

(b) with her seniority, pension rights and similar rights as they would have been if the period or periods of her employment prior to the end of her maternity leave period were continuous with her employment following her return to work ... and

(c) otherwise on terms and conditions not less favourable than those which would have been applicable to her had she not been absent from work after the end of her maternity leave period."

Miss Laura Cox, QC and Miss Tess Gill for the employee; Mr Paul Nicholls for the employer.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said the employee had commenced em-

ployment with IGE Medical Systems in June 1988 and in time had become the regional administrator and lymphin of their Cheshire office.

She had become pregnant in summer 1994; complications had forced her to take paid sick leave in August 1994. Her contractual term to paid sick leave was 30 weeks in 12-month period. She remained unfit to return to work.

In February 1995, having by then completed more than two years continuous employment, she had given proper notice that she intended to exercise her right to return to work at the expiration of 29 weeks from the birth of her baby on April 5, 1995.

Her entitlement to statutory maternity leave was triggered on March 6, 1995. She had then been in receipt of maternity pay until July 10, 1995. In September 1995 she informed her employers that she intended to return to work at the end of the period of extended maternity absence, which, they told her, would be October 30, 1995.

On October 13, she had sought to delay her return to work on the ground of her ill-health, submitting a medical certificate to confirm that she was suffering from

post-natal depression.

Her employers were sympathetic and agreed to extend her leave, informing her that she still retained her right to return to work up until November 27.

She had remained unwell and had written expressing her concern that her depressive illness would delay her return beyond that date. The company had replied that she was entitled to extend her maternity leave for medical reasons by four weeks, after which it was not obliged to keep her job open and would do so.

She had been dismissed when she failed to turn up for work on November 27.

The industrial tribunal had dismissed all her claims on the basis that her employment had terminated on the cessation of maternity pay on July 7, 1995.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal had reversed the finding as to the date of termination because it was argued that it had been common ground that her contract continued until the end of the extended maternity absence.

The EAT had held that the contract was put in suspense and that upon the employee's failure to exercise her right to return, the contract of employment had come to an end by implied agreement not

by any act of termination by the employee. Accordingly she was not entitled to any relief.

The appeal gave rise to a number of difficult issues, including when and how the employment terminated in the case of a pregnant employee who was prevented by illness from returning at the end of the extended maternity leave period.

She was dismissed, was the dismissal automatically unfair? What was the extent of the protection afforded to women as regards pregnancy and maternity deriving from the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Equal Treatment Directive 76/207/EEC (OJ 1976 No 159).

There were no easy answers to these fundamental questions.

His Lordship agreed with the industrial tribunal that "the law on maternity leave is notoriously complex... fraught with pitfalls for the unwary".

It was surely not too much to ask of the legislature that those who had to grapple with that topic should not have to have a tortoise around their heads as the single most important aid to the understanding of their rights.

In his Lordship's judgment the statutory right to return to work

terms and conditions not less favourable than would have been applicable to her had she not been absent from work after the end of her maternity leave period.

Consequently, whether or not the employee would be in breach of the terms of the revised contract by failing to attend for work would depend on the terms of her employment and the reason for her non-attendance.

As she had not exhausted her contractual entitlement to sick leave, her employers had no lawful reason to dismiss her. Her dismissal was wrongful and she was entitled to damages.

The answer to the claim for sex discrimination was that the employee had been employed as soon as she exercised her right to return

to work.

The industrial tribunal had found that if the employee had returned to work at the end of leave, even for a day, then they would have been bound to hold that she had been unlawfully discriminated against. That finding of unfair discrimination was not and could not be challenged.

Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Ms Clare Hockey, Manchester; Cameron McKenna.

**Reinsurance was not transferred**

**In re Friends' Provident Life Office**

Before Mr Justice Neuberger  
Judgment December 4

Where a reinsurer gave a policy of reinsurance back to the reinsured, that determined the reinsurance policy. Accordingly, it could not be said that the long term business had been transferred from the reinsurer to the insured for the purposes of Part 1 of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

Mr Justice Neuberger so held in the Chancery Division when refusing a petition by Friends' Provident Life Office seeking the sanction of the court for what was said to be the transfer of the long term reinsurance business to the petitioner from its subsidiary, Friends' Provident Linked Life Assurance (FPLA).

Part 1 of Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982, as inserted by regulation 28 of Schedule 3 to the Insurance Companies (Third Insurance Directives) Regulations (SI 1994 No 1696) provides:

"(1) Where it is proposed to carry out a scheme under which the whole or part of the long term business carried on by an insurance company to which this Part of the Act applies... the transferor company may apply to the court, by petition, for an order sanctioning the scheme."

Mr Robin Hollington for the petitioner.

MR JUSTICE NEUBERGER said that the petitioner's business related to unit-linked policies which it had issued. To remove uncertainty which arose out of the regime applicable in 1983, the petitioner reinsurance that part of its business with FPLA, a wholly owned subsidiary which was formed for that purpose.

In 1990, the tax reasons for that reinsurance structure came to an end. The petitioner and FPLA therefore proposed a scheme whereby FPLA's reinsurance business be transferred to the petitioner. Accordingly, the petitioner sought the sanction of the court pursuant to the Schedule.

His Lordship said that, subject to three points of principle, it was plain that the court should grant the application as if it were a transfer of re-insurance.

His Lordship said that as a matter of general principle if a particular insurance contract entered into by an insured constituted long term business, then, in the absence of special facts or clear words of the relevant statutory provision to the contrary, the contract between the insurer and a re-insurer whereby the insurer under that contract was laid off, should constitute long term business.

If, as in the case under the 1982 Act, an expression such as "long term business" was defined by reference to a type of insurance business then both in terms of language and in terms of concept, it would appear to govern reinsurance reinsurance simply involved the insurer himself insuring with another person, namely the reinsurer, all or part of the risk which the insurer had himself underwritten.

As between the policy-holders and the petitioner, nothing was transferred; the terms, rights and obligations under those insurance policies and the insurance business involved in those policies remained wholly unaffected as between the insurer and insured.

His Lordship concluded that however the scheme was defined or described it could not be described as involving a transfer of long term business.

It was not open to the court to approve what was really a cancellation of a series of reinsurance policies as if it were a transfer of re-insurance.

2 Could it be said that business was transferred by FPLA within the meaning of paragraph 10 of the Schedule?

His Lordship said that at first sight the idea that a reinsurer would be said to transfer the policy of reinsurance to the reinsured ap-

peared to involve a conceptual difficulty, because the effect of the transfer was to put an end to the reinsurance policy altogether.

However much one might call it a transfer, the proposed transaction was really a cancellation or surrender of the contract.

It was not open to the court to accept that a reinsurer could cancel a reinsurance contract entered into by an insured without the consent of the insured.

Indeed, the taxation consequences of cancellation were so disastrous that if the choice was between keeping the present arrangements in place or cancelling the reinsurance policies, the choice would undoubtedly be to take the former.

Accordingly, it could be said that the court should refuse to sanction the scheme on the same sort of grounds upon which Mr Justice Brightman refused to sanction the reinsurance of capital in *In re Rylands-Whitcross* (unreported, December 21, 1973).

His Lordship said that had he found for the petitioner on the scheme and issue he would not have considered it appropriate to refuse to sanction the scheme.

In *Rylands-Whitcross*, that which the court was being asked to approve was precious close to being a sham. In the present case if the arrangement embodied in the scheme had fallen within the Schedule, there would have been a genuine transfer of business.

Moreover, the tax consequence of cancellation were so grave that no transaction would be allowed if all that was unlike *Rylands-Whitcross*, where there was merely a small saving in stamp duty.

Finally, in the present case the Inland Revenue had been consulted about the proposed scheme and had made it clear that they did not object.

Solicitors: Sweettaw, Dorking.

**European Law Report****Is medicinal product essentially similar?**

**Regina v Licensing Authority established by the Medicines Act 1968 (acting by the Medicines Control Agency), Ex parte Generics (UK) Ltd (E.R., Squibb & Sons Ltd, intervenor)**

Same v Same, Ex parte The Wellcome Foundation Ltd  
Same v Same, Ex parte Glaxo Operations UK Ltd and Others (Generics (UK) Ltd, intervenor)

Case C-368/96

For the purposes of the abridged procedure laid down for authorising the marketing of medicinal products in a Community directive, a product was "essentially similar" to another product if it had the same qualitative and quantitative composition in terms of active principles and the pharmaceutical form, and was bioequivalent, unless it differed significantly as to safety or efficacy.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court

less than six years and is marketed in the member state for which the application is made; this period shall be extended to 10 years in the case of high-technology medicinal products; furthermore, a member state may also extend that period to 10 years where it considers this necessary in the interest of public health."

The three sets of proceedings concerned the Medicines Control Agency's refusal to grant a Community Marketing Authorisation (CMA) to a marketing authorisation for a product known as Captopril in respect of indications which had not been approved in any member state for at least 10 years, and its decision to grant, under that procedure, authorisations for products known as Adicovir and Ranitidine to A/S Gea Farmaceutica Fabrik and Generics, respectively.

The Divisional Court's fifth question asked whether, in the light of the answers to its questions 1 to 4, article 4.8(a)(ii) was invalid as concerning the marketing of a product which had not been approved in any member state for at least 10 years.

His Lordship referred to an explanatory note relating to heading 9705 adopted by the Commission of the European Communities (OJ 1994 L 256, p. 1), on request for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty, by the Finanzgericht (Finance Court), Düsseldorf, Germany.

Mr Clees's application to the customs office for clearance for free circulation of a Mercedes-Benz 300 SL car manufactured in 1986, as falling under heading 9705, was denied.

The characteristics of the vehicle which were (i) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (ii) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (iii) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (iv) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (v) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (vi) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (vii) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (viii) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (ix) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (x) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (xi) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (xii) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; (xiii) in their original state, not of historical or ethnographic interest; 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## **Capitalisation, week's change**

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

# Capitalisation, week's change

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## Nissan tipped to link with rival

By OUR CITY STAFF

NISSAN, the troubled Japanese carmaker, is reported to be close to announcing a tie-up with one of its biggest Western rivals. It is known to have held talks with Renault, Daimler-Chrysler and Ford for several months, and could unveil an agreement with one of them by the end of the month.

Experts believe that any such deal is likely to fall short of a full merger or takeover. Instead, it is expected to involve sales and distribution arrangements and some sort of collaboration over the development of new car models.

Reports yesterday suggested that the Nissan car factory in Sunderland, which recently came top of a European productivity league table, could benefit by being adapted to produce more than one car marque. The plant, which has operated since 1986, and turns out some 280,000 Primera and Micra cars a year, employs 4,300 people and is poised for expansion.

An alliance between the debt-laden Japanese group and one of its rivals would be just the latest deal in an industry that is beset by overcapacity and poor profitability.

Daimler-Chrysler, which has for some time been in talks to acquire Nissan's truck manufacturing arm, is itself the product of the recent \$9 billion (£54 billion) marriage of Germany's Daimler-Benz, which owns Mercedes, and Chrysler of the US.

## P&O woos its wharfies to alter working ways

By ADAM JONES

P&O, the British shipping group, faces a month of tense union negotiations as it tries to persuade the workers at its cargo-handling facilities in Australia — known as "wharfies" — to agree to job losses and other measures aimed at increasing productivity.

P&O is the largest container port operator in Australia, controlling half the waterfront and employing about 1,500.

The company has just started talks with the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA), seeking to reach separate local agreements on manning of its cargo operations in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Fremantle.

The MUA hit the headlines last year when its members

## BC Partners poised to buy Allied Domecq business

By DOMINIC WALSH

BC PARTNERS, the venture capital group, has emerged as the front-runner to buy Cantrell & Cochrane, the Irish drinks distributor owned by Allied Domecq, in a deal worth up to £50 million.

Allied, which acquired full control of C&C last July when it bought out Diageo's half share, has been sounding out potential trade and financial buyers after shelving plans to offload the business via a stock market flotation.

Although insiders claim a flotation is still a possibility, City sources believe Allied is in advanced negotiations over a sale to BC Partners. The sale price is thought to be close to £50 million, although the total figure, after including a dividend payable by C&C to Allied, is nearer £50 million. Warburg Dillon Read's private equity arm is also thought to have been in the running.

The predicted price tag is likely to disappoint City analysts who had placed a value of between £600 million and £700 million on C&C when it was put up for sale last summer through the Investment Bank of Ireland and Goldman Sachs.

Allied is believed to have paid about £270 million for Diageo's 49.6 per cent stake.

C&C, which is one of Ireland's biggest drinks suppliers, distributes the likes of Bulmer cider and Britvic soft drinks. It also has a number of its own brands including Bally-



Tony Hales hopes to forge an alliance of his own after the link-up between rivals Grand Metropolitan and Guinness

gown, the mineral water, and Tullamore Dew, the Irish whiskey.

Allied Domecq's disposal of

to the challenge posed by the merger a year ago of its biggest drinks rivals, Grand Metropolitan and Guinness, to form Diageo.

Tony Hales, Allied's chief executive, has made no secret of his desire to respond to the merger by forging an alliance of his own. However, his at-

tempts to coax his preferred candidate, Seagram, to the altar have come to nothing. The Canadian spirits and entertainment group recently announced its intention to go it alone and the prospects of a marriage now look remote.

For BC Partners, the pur-

chase of C&C would be one of its biggest acquisitions since it was spun out of Barings after the merchant bank's collapse in 1995. In July it acquired Hurst Publishing, the company behind Auto Trader magazine, in a £260 million deal, then in December it paid £100 million for the Ross Breeders chicken division of Hillsdown Holdings.

## PwC takes acquisition trail in Israel

From A CORRESPONDENT IN TEL AVIV

THE world's largest accounting and consulting firm, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, is looking to expand in Israel. Several businesses are on its shopping list, which is headed by plans to buy a management software business.

The firm, which was created last year out of the global merger of Cooper & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, said that it is looking at acquisitions via its Israeli affiliate, the accounting firm Kesselman & Kesselman.

According to Avraham Berger, managing partner in Kesselman, the firm is looking specifically for a management software company because "it is understood that Israel is a leader in this area". The firm is said to be talking to several companies.

Jonathan Shimshoni, chief executive of the sister practice Kesselman Consulting, said that the firm is also considering acquisitions in other areas of consulting, such as marketing, human resources, systems consulting or software assistance.

Jermy Brooks, global managing partner in PriceWaterhouseCoopers, said separating up a \$50 million (£29 million) global fund to invest in high-technology and life science companies over three years. "I am certain some of these funds will find their way to Israel," Mr Brooks told a news confer-

## Strutt & Parker lifts hotels side

STRUTT & PARKER, the upmarket estate agent, has bolstered its hotel property arm by acquiring William Hillary Leisure & Hotels for an undisclosed price (Dominic Walsh writes).

The deal, which has taken nine months to negotiate, quadruples the size of Strutt & Parker's hotel and leisure division. The enlarged business will operate from William Hillary's offices in London and Salisbury.

Strutt & Parker, still an independent partnership, operates from 22 offices throughout the UK.

## Investors await view on suing

INVESTORS in Powerscreen, the Northern Irish engineer that was rocked by an accounting black hole last year, face a prolonged wait to discover whether the company is to sue three former directors or its former auditor, KPMG (Adam Jones writes).

There had been hopes that Powerscreen would have a firm recommendation from Herbert Smith, the City law firm, by Christmas, advising on whether to proceed with legal action against any of the parties.

However, a decision is understood to have been pushed back to this month at the earliest. The former directors who could be targeted by Powerscreen are Shay McKeown, the former chief executive, Pat Dooley and Barry Cosgrove.

The Sydney operation is likely to be the toughest for P&O to reform because the union is seen as most militant there. The Serious Fraud Office is investigating the accounting irregularities.

## Reuters makes a billion changes to greet the euro

By ROBERT LEA

YESTERDAY lunchtime saw Geoffrey Sanderson a happy man. He'd been planning to work non-stop, fuelled only by adrenaline, he said, until 6pm Sunday evening, by which time the last of one billion bits of information would finally have been changed.

As it was, Reuters, for whom Mr Sanderson was running the show as project manager of the euro conversion weekend, had deemed itself "euro-fit" seven hours ahead of schedule and Mr Sanderson was off to get some lunch.

But even as he was looking at stepping away from his desk at the Reuters mission control in London's Dock-

lands, the first calls were coming through to Reuters Help Desk hotline.

Yet those seeking evidence of a crumbling in the City edifice, despite claims throughout the Square Mile of a conversion weekend job well-done, were left waiting for their story.

"The calls have been similar

to what we get during a normal working week," Mr Sanderson said. "It's 'where do we find this bit of data' and 'how should we be using this product? We have had no reports of any failures.'

Reuters as a premier provider of foreign exchange transaction systems in the City should, more than anyone,

have known the extent of the job at the weekend.

The past three days has seen it put 700 people on the case, about 5 per cent of its staff and 100 more than it had previously thought it would need. The extra pairs of eyes and hands were essentially data-checking, but they enabled the company to sign-off as "prepared" at 11am Sunday morning.

So everything to go smoothly this Monday morning, then? "Ah," said Mr Sanderson, "let's see. We'll have a better idea in those couple of hours around 8 o'clock when the market opens in London."

Reports, pages 1, 6, 48

**WORD-WATCHING**  
Answers from page 37  
**ROMPU**  
(b) Broken, interrupted or displaced. The French for "busi". In Heraldry, an Armorial Charge that is broken may be described as Rompu. But the past participle is most frequently applied to geometrical charges and lines.

**HYPOID**  
(c) Hypoid gear is a combination of the spiral bevel and worm type. It is very quiet in operation. The motion of the teeth is a combination of rolling and sliding, causing high loading pressure and high rubbing speed. Very special "Extreme Pressure" lubricant is essential.

**BEGUNES**  
(c) Women leading a pious but not monastic life, in the late Middle Ages mainly in the Low Countries. Some lived alone, others in communities. They took vows of celibacy, but were free to renounce them. They clashed with the religious authorities, mainly because of their belief in a direct personal relationship with God.

**LAMPASSETTE**  
(b) A type of damask. It looks like that produced by the secondary weft of Lampas. One or more weft threads working together form the ground and the pattern motifs. The latter are formed by floats bound in a weave in which the ends interface in groups of two or three.

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
Solution: 1 Rxf7+ Kxf7: 2 Rh1+ Bh6: 3 Qf7+ mate follows

### CHANGE ON WEEK

#### THE POUND

**US Dollar**  
1.6840 (-0.0095)  
**German Mark**  
2.7731 (-0.0324)  
**Exchange index**  
99.7 (-1.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

**FT 30 share**  
3551.3 (+17.7)  
**FTSE 100**  
5882.6 (+15.4)  
**New York Dow Jones**  
9189.41 (-28.58)  
**Tokyo Nikkei Average**  
13842.17 (+135.44)

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Expanding Possibilities

## THE FACTS

Market cap: £17 billion.  
Turnover: £3 billion.  
Pre-tax profit: £223 million.  
Employees: 27,000.  
Overview: Reed Elsevier is a leading global player in the provision of "must have" professional and business-to-business information. It is particularly strong in scientific and legal publishing, both hard copy and online, and it also has a significant travel information business.

## THE BOARD

The current board reflects the fact that the company is in transition from the dual structure put in place after the 1993 merger of Reed International and Elsevier.

To prepare for the change in April, David Webster, the Safeway chairman, has been appointed interim non-executive chairman. He will then give way to Morris Tabakblat, currently chairman and chief executive of Unilever, who joined the Reed Elsevier board last year. Mr Tabakblat will also succeed Pierre Vinken as chairman of the Elsevier supervisory board in April, when Mr Vinken reaches the statutory retirement age.

Herman Bruggink and Nigel Stapleton are to stand down as co-chairmen and become co-chief executive officers. A global search is under way to find a single chief executive.

Other members of the executive committee include John Mallon, a director of Reed International since 1990; and Mark Armour, the chief financial officer, who will serve on the boards of the two parent groups from April. The other executive directors are Neville Catesworth, chairman of the Reed Elsevier legal division; Hermann Spratt, chairman of Elsevier Science; and Orano Laman Trip, director of human resources.

Apart from Mr Tabakblat, Mr Webster and Mr Vinken, the non-executive directors include Richard Bodman, managing partner at AT&T Ventures; Sir Christopher Lawton, chairman of TI Group; Loek van Vollenbroek, deputy chairman of the Elsevier board since 1995; Steven Pernick, partner in De Brau Blackstone Westbrook, the Dutch law firm; and Rolf Stomberg, former head of BP Oil and chairman designate of John Mowlem.

**A**t Reed Elsevier, the international professional and business information group, the executives could be forgiven for wishing that 2000 comes as quickly as possible. At the very least they must be grateful that 1998 is over.

The kindest thing that can be said about Reed Elsevier at the moment is that managerially, technologically and commercially last year was one of transition, a year in which investments in the future have been made but not yet reaped and in which uncertainty hung over the company and its share price like a cloud.

As a result, the British half of the Anglo-Dutch group, Reed International, underperformed the FTSE 100 by about 35 per cent and was the sixth-worst performer. Elsevier fared, if anything, slightly worse on the Amsterdam bourse.

"Just when you think things can't get worse they spin downwards again," says a disappointed media analyst who, like many of the company's short-term critics, is still a medium-term supporter of the company's strategy of leaving the world of consumer publishing far behind and concentrating on high-margin professional publishing, such as scientific journals.

Reed Elsevier suffered currency problems, now easing, like many other international groups, and the Far East economic crisis took its toll. There was, for example, a sudden lack of appetite in South Korea for paying expensive scientific journal subscriptions in advance.

But Reed suffered a much wider variety of buffettings and setbacks, many unrelated. The collapse of the merger with Wolters Kluwer, apparently because of potential regulatory problems in Brussels, was followed by problems in the Reed Travel Group.

The company admits it was slow to invest in online travel products and is now reconciled to serving the hard-copy and CD-Rom section of the market. The compensation programme for advertisers who suffered from "irregularities" involving circulation claims by a number of Reed Travel publications led to an exceptional charge of £20 million.

The uncertainty increased in August, when the company announced that it planned to move to a unitary structure with a single non-executive chairman and a new sole chief executive. The group's co-chairmen, Herman Bruggink, a traditional hard-copy publisher, and Nigel Stapleton, 13 years with Unilever, both said that they did not want to be considered for the new chief executive role. The new struc-



Show time: Reed Elsevier, which holds exhibitions worldwide tied to its business magazines, faces restructuring at the highest level. Nigel Stapleton, currently co-chairman, left, and Mark Armour, chief financial officer, will soon be working under the sole chairmanship of Morris Tabakblat, far right

ture, although ultimately sensible, if only to stop squabbling and tension between some of the British and Dutch non-executive directors, appeared to create a temporary vacuum.

There were worries about Thomson's Westlaw taking market share from Reed's Lexis Nexus database system, but above all there were short-term City concerns about the investing of tens of millions of pounds on moving to electronic delivery systems, particularly ScienceDirect, the online scientific information service that will have 1,200 journals loaded this year.

For many, the final straw came with last month's statement admitting that trading conditions in some of Reed Elsevier's markets had become more difficult in the past few months and that pre-tax profits were likely to be about £70 million, some 6 per cent less than last year's figure.

The trading statement did not go down well. Credit Suisse First Boston headed its note to clients: "Read Elsevier: The Ugly Duckling." Under the headline "Disappointed", Bankers

Trust said that the company had continued what appeared to be a three-year trend of giving disappointing news in its year-end trading statements.

As Mr Stapleton has conceded privately, there is enough black paint around for a black picture to be painted if that is what people want to do.

In fact, the Reed Elsevier co-chairman is very positive about Reed's future. However, he concedes that "a number of one-off factors in 1998" have tended to

obscure what he regards as good performances in the base businesses. He concedes that uncertainties about whether the electronic publishing strategy would pay off, whether the travel business could be stabilised and over who would be chief executive in the new unitary structure have acted as a depressant on the share price.

Mr Stapleton says: "During the course of 1999 we would expect those uncertainties to be addressed in a positive way,

which ought to impact on the share price even before performance factors start to flow."

He acknowledges the pressure to produce returns, but notes that there is little evidence anywhere else that migration to electronic publishing can produce overnight miracles. If it can bring attractive returns, particularly when you have the sort of brand franchises and content advantages that Reed Elsevier has," he adds.

A relatively small amount of good news could transform the present gloomy perceptions of Reed Elsevier. Though there are no current talks outside normal business dealings, a merger with Wolters Kluwer cannot be ruled out for ever. Reed executives note a softening of attitudes in Brussels and the determination of Havas and Bertelsmann to grow in the professional business publishing market should increase competition and reduce the apparent dominance a Reed Elsevier/Wolters Kluwer tie-up would create.

Even if that deal can never be resurrected, Reed still sees a number of possible acquisition

"Will the costly period of investment in electronic publishing have the desired impact in terms of accelerated revenue growth? The answer, I think, is it will, but it won't manifest itself until the year 2000. We are maintaining our neutral rating despite the recent profits warning."

Richard Dale, Salomon Smith Barney

"The golden scenario for this year is that a new chief executive will come in and make announcements about the company and there will be a Pearson-type re-rating. It is much more likely that a new manager will take six or nine months settling in, there will be drift and increasingly people will question the investment in electronic products."

Paul Richards, West LB Paribas

should remain a strong cash cow for the foreseeable future.

The company's scientific division had revenues of £571 million and operating profits of £230 million in 1997 — a 40 per cent margin and a 66 per cent return on capital invested. Despite such attractive margins, it will be very difficult for competitors to challenge the company's market-leading journals in the physical, life and social sciences — above all because of the importance to scientists of peer review and ensuring that their papers appear in the right journals.

The investment in the move to electronic distribution was vital to protect those high margins. In 2000 analysts are looking for revenues of about £700 million and operating profits in the region of £300 million from scientific

The acquisition of the legal publisher Matthew Bender should help Reed Elsevier to compete more effectively with Westlaw, as will the launch of a number of new legal products on the Internet this year.

The company scores well with Crisp Consulting, the specialist consultancy, on boardroom pay. Mr Stapleton's experience justifies his remuneration of £228,000, even though his responsibilities are diffused by a complex management structure, which also gives rise to an excessive number of non-executive directors.

However, on ethical expression it fares less well. According to Integrity Works, the independent consultant, the company apparently has no statement of business principles — "a surprising omission" — and its other forms of ethical expression are short of best practice.

Above all, what Reed Elsevier needs now is time and patient investors to see whether it really can deliver on the promises made. Although it appears that the gloom has been considerably overdone, the only certainty is that we will not know for sure until the next millennium.

RAYMOND SNODDY

Ethical expression	2/10
Fat-cat quotient	8/10
Financial record	7/10
Share performance	6/10
Attitude to staff	6/10
Strength of brand	8/10
Innovation	9/10
Annual report	7/10
City star rating	6/10
Future prospects	9/10
Total	67/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient measures the ratio of top executive pay to that of the average employee. The strength of brand is based on the number of awards won by the company. The innovation score is based on the number of new products introduced. The annual report score is based on the quality of the annual report. The city star rating is based on the company's performance in the City Star Awards. The future prospects score is based on the company's projected growth rate.

## ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT

		1998	High	Low	Net Cap (million)	Price/price	Wkly +/-%	Ytd %	P/E		1998	High	Low	Net Cap (million)	Price/price	Wkly +/-%	Ytd %	P/E
1%	6%	2.40	10 Gp	1	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.10	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
19%	74%	3.73	ATA Financials	100%	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.40	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
13%	35%	1.20	ATA Corp	88	82	-7.1	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.40	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
15%	12%	8.20	ATA Group	127%	28	-5.0	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
21%	17%	25.40	Acstar Plus	175	36	-14.7	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
11%	45%	1.40	Acstar Group	40%	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
5%	36%	3.10	Acstar & Bt	71	+ 1%	-1.3	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
4%	24%	10.70	Alpharma	30	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
12%	42%	8.80	Ambient Media	46%	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
32%	10%	1.20	Amico Travel Co	100%	+ 1%	-1.0	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
100%	98%	32.00	Anglo Stem Oil	90%	-1	-3.6	-6.1	-6.1	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
11%	72%	3.07	Anglo-Welsh	100%	-1	-3.6	-6.1	-6.1	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
117%	72%	55.30	Antrop	72%	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
10%	80%	1.20	Arco	50%	-1	-1.0	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
90%	50%	4.42	Arco Resources	65	...	-6.2	-26.5	-26.5	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
5%	5%	2.27	Arteza (UK)	4	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
72%	54%	1.40	Atterley Trust	50	-2	-2.0	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
29%	7%	14.50	Atria Capital	5	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
69%	5%	0.45	Aviva	0	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
12%	1%	0.60	Aviva Assicurazioni	100%	+ 1%	-1.0	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
23%	10%	16.00	BCCI Technologies	90%	-1	-1.0	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
31%	13%	21.40	BGR	137	-2	-15.6	-10.0	-10.0	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
3%	1%	0.32	Baker Services	1	...	...	...	...	100	105	2.55	Net Big Pl	105	...	...	...	...	
11%	4%	2.20	Banc Health	120%														

## BP denies falling oil price will cost 1,000 UK jobs

By Our City Staff

BRITISH PETROLEUM yesterday denied that the collapse in the oil price would cost 1,000 jobs in its UK operations.

The British oil major, which has been catapulted into the mega-majors with its £3 billion takeover of Amoco of the US, making it the largest company on the London Stock Exchange, said it is not expecting heavy job losses in its North Sea operations.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday: "When the merger with Amoco was announced last August we said that 6,000 jobs would go, but that most of these would be in the States. As a consequence of falling oil prices this number may be slightly higher, but any job losses will still be concentrated in the US."

He added that, in comparison, job losses in the UK would be "fairly small".

BP currently employs nearly 3,500 people in its exploration and production arm. Most of these jobs are based in Aberdeen.

Reports have suggested that numbers may be cut by up to 40 per cent. BP, however, denied that there would be mass redundancies in the UK over coming months.

Fears were sparked after the price of Brent crude oil collapsed to its lowest level for 12 years, falling below the \$10 level.

With weak demand for oil and overproduction, the industry has seen considerable consolidation over the past year as a means of controlling and reducing costs.

Other big mergers, such as those between Exxon and Mobil and Total and Petrofina, are likely to result in job cuts both in the UK and abroad.

Amerada Hess, Lusino, Enterprise Oil, Texaco and Shell have already announced job cuts in the UK.

The company also denied reports that it could write off about £2 billion from its oil assets when it announces its 1998 results next month. A spokesman for the company said: "This is complete rubbish."



New Deal on offer in the high-tech jobcentre at Brixton Hill, South London, where job-seekers locate posts by computer

## New Deal is accused of ignoring small firms

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SMALL COMPANIES are virtually being ignored by the New Deal, the Government's programme to reduce unemployment over the past year as a means of controlling and reducing costs.

The federation says that jobcentres should be privatised if they cannot provide a better service for employers wishing to join the Government's unemployment initiative.

The organisation, which represents 125,000 businesses, thinks that smaller companies are losing out on the scheme, which gives employers a subsidy of up to £75 a week for New Deal workers.

Researchers found that jobcentres had contacted only 15 per cent of the 1,800 small and medium-sized businesses questioned in the survey. The study also found that some smaller companies complained that they were sent poor calibre

candidates, while 44 per cent said that confusion was the worst feature of the New Deal.

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The Department for Education and Employment denied that the Employment Service was failing smaller businesses over the New Deal. A spokesman said that the federation's comments were "at odds with

their own survey, which was in key aspects encouraging". He said: "More than 35,000 employers have now signed to New Deal and the overwhelming majority of those are small and medium-sized enterprises. Business satisfaction with New Deal and New Deal recruits is one of the core measures on which we are evaluating the performance of the programme, and continuously driving forward to improve money."

The Government said that its research showed that 82 per cent of smaller companies that had contacted the New Deal information line were pleased, very pleased, or extremely pleased by their experience.

## Caradon close to agreeing sale of Everest

By CAROLINE MERRELL

CARADON, the struggling building materials group, is poised to sell its Everest double-glazing subsidiary to the privately owned Bardox Group, based in Manchester.

Bardox, which specialises in home improvements, is also interested in buying Caradon's other doors and windows manufacturing division. It is believed to have bid about £40 million for the division.

Caradon announced in September that it planned to sell off its Everest subsidiary in an attempt to refocus the company on plumbing, electrical controls and printing personalised cheques.

Jürgen Hintz, chief executive, who took charge just over a year ago, decided that Everest, along with three other subsidiaries — Caradon doors and windows, Camic, a steel linterns business and Terrain plastic piping — did not fit with Caradon's future strategy.

The doors and windows business posted profits of only £100,000 in the first half of last year. Warburg Dillon Read was asked to carry out the sale of the four subsidiaries.

Bardox was set up a decade ago and had sales of £85 million last year. Two years ago, it became a venture capital firm, bought a 20 per cent stake in Bardox, with the aim of building it up to become a leader in the home improvements market. Caradon's pre-tax profits were £5.7 million, while operating profits fell from £65 million to £63 million.

It is thought that Caradon believes that selling Everest and the doors and windows manufacturing division separately from the two other divisions will raise more money.

Caradon's shares have been tumbling in value since 1994. Mr Hintz believes that one of the group's problems has been its strategy of charging a premium price for simple items such as boilers, wiring boxes, and door bells. These are lines that tend to be affected by cheap imports.

Buyers for the other two businesses are expected to be finalised shortly.

## Moment of truth for retailers in the spotlight

Retailers will this week start to do their final count of Christmas takings and begin telling investors whether trade was as bad as it seemed.

The first post-Christmas trading statement is due today from Goldsmiths, the jeweller. It will be followed by Littlewoods, the privately owned catalogue and high street retailer, on Thursday. The bulk of trading statements are due next week and the week after.

Retailers complained almost unanimously in the run-up to Christmas that trade had been hit by a sharp downturn in consumer confidence, and many began their winter sales a week or so early.

This means that even if the volume of sales rose, profits will have suffered.

One of the most eagerly awaited trading statements will be from Marks & Spencer, but it is unlikely to come out before the week beginning January 25. Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman, said that sales had "fallen off a cliff" in November, and described the clothing market as "a bloodbath".

Trade is not thought to have improved since, and the company has taken what for it is almost revolutionary step of resorting to television advertising to attract customers to its winter sale.

Next, which appears to have been doing relatively well, was one of the first to make a trading statement last January, but it may well hold off for a few days this time.

Many retailers have been reluctant to set the date for their trading statement, hoping to choose the best moment nearer the time. But Sainsbury, the jewellers, Selfridges and Boots have indicated that they will issue theirs next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

Kingfisher (Computer Superdrug), Woolworths and B&Q, Sears (Wallis, Warehouse, Richards and Freemans), House of Fraser, Laura Ashley and Austin Reed are likely to come out in the same week, as will Dixons.

Dixons, PC World and Currys, which has results to announce. Debenhams will issue its statement the following Tuesday.

Sears will be watched particularly closely because Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur who has made two informal offers for the group, has said he will wait until he sees the group's Christmas trading statement before deciding on his next move. Freemans, the Sears catalogue company, is believed by analysts to have been through a particularly tough time.

Arcadia, the company be-



Sales pitch: early opening

man of the Verdict retail consultancy, said he expects this to emerge as the worst Christmas for retailers for years. He said that early indications were that the January sales will also turn out to be something of a damp squib. "I don't see how the January sales are going to be fantastic," he said. "They'll be okay, because they've got to be, because Christmas trading was so bad."

"I'm not sure that a lot of consumers are being easily motivated by the lowering of prices. For a lot of them, going to a shopping centre like Lakeside is just a day out."

The only retailer so far to indicate how Christmas went has been John Lewis, which issues weekly figures. It said that after a very slow start to the month it expects to see December come out flat against last year. However, it has opened a new store during the year, at Cribbs Causeway in Bristol, and December is likely to have seen a disappointing fall in like-for-like sales.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

## Germany quells talk of VAT rise

From A CORRESPONDENT IN BONN

THE GERMAN Government yesterday moved quickly to quell reports that it is planning to raise the value-added tax rate in the country by two percentage points.

Reports in the German press said that Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrat-led coalition planned to raise VAT to cover a multibillion mark gap in the country's budget.

The reports, citing sources in both federal and regional governments, said Bonn needed extra cash to cover the cost of corporate tax reforms and measures to fight unemployment. The Government would justify the rises by saying they were needed to harmonise sales taxes within the European Union, it was claimed.

A German Finance Ministry spokesman said the report in the *Bild am Sonntag* newspaper, was complete fiction. "There are no plans to raise value-added tax, and we do not need to do so to finance government spending plans."

The European Commission has proposed VAT rates in the EU should be between 17 and 21 per cent, instead of the current 15 to 25 per cent range. Germany's rate is 16 per cent.

Investors are hoping the Alternative Investment Market can recover from its disastrous performance in 1998, when it suffered its sharpest setback.

Since the market was set up in July 1995, its stocks have dominated the top ten risers of the following years — with about an equal representation among the losers. This year, the AIM managed only three of the top ten performers and dominated the half of shame.

Its best shot was Independent Energy Holdings, which came to the market two years ago to profit from deregulation of electricity. It now supplies some 800 companies, and the City decided to take it seriously this year as it started to win contracts. This took the shares up a staggering 292 per cent.

The same fate befell Northern Petroleum, which used to pride itself on a 35 per cent option over a North Russia oil ex-

## Bill Gates may bid for BT television franchise

By ROBERT LEA

WESTMINSTER CABLE, arguably Britain's most prestigious cable television franchise, could end up under the ownership of Bill Gates' computing multimillionaire.

British Telecom is preparing to auction its two cable franchises — Westminster and another in Milton Keynes — ahead of the launch of its interactive television home shopping and banking joint venture with British Sky Broadcasting, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

BT, which is emerging as the new Microsoft, could bid for the franchises, which would not only give Mr Gates his first presence in UK cable television, but also give him a foothold in television Internet access to British homes.

BT is selling the franchises as

a condition of its 32.5 per cent stake in British Interactive Broadcasting in the consortium with BSkyB, HSBC, the banking group, and Panasonic and NTL, which recently made an offer for Newcastle United.

However, it has emerged that Bill Gates's Microsoft, which would not only give Mr Gates his first presence in UK cable television, but also give him a foothold in television Internet access to British homes.

Neither BT nor Microsoft was prepared to comment yesterday, investment in cable television, however, would not be new to Microsoft, which bought a stake in Comcast in the US in 1997.

A sale to Microsoft is also likely to suit BT, which already has a partnership with Mr Gates's company through its WebTV Internet television venture in the UK. It would mean not having to sell out to the other British cable operators, who rival BT in the UK telephone market.

Analysts say that the AIM's problem is that still it lacks liquidity. Quite often the prices quoted are theoretical because no one is actually buying or selling.

Also, it openly bills itself as the riskiest bourse in London. This does not appeal to investors who have been stung by the sort of crash seen in July. Their confidence is slowly recovering, but they prefer the security of the FTSE 100 to taking a punt on the AIM.

Better conditions with the fully listed markets will need to continue longer before the recovery seeps back into the high-risk Alternative Investment Market. Only then will it have a better chance of delivering the "high-reward" part of the equation that has been missing for the best part of this year.

Supplying tractor tyres. Derek Bonham, the former Hanson chief executive, bought a 29.9 per cent stake at 23p and said he would make serious acquisitions. The shares, which started the year at 26p, more than trebled soon afterwards.

However, the AIM's losers were even

more spectacular. Investors in Selector lost 94 per cent of their holding over the year as the Israeli company — which makes a Rob Stop device that prevents beer dregs flowing from a dead barrel — failed to resolve its cash crisis.

Sibir Energy's only asset was stakes in oil companies that hope to do business in Western Siberia. Hopes of making any sort of money from Russia collapsed over the year and the shares lost 91 per cent of their value.

The same fate befell Northern Petroleum, which used to pride itself on a 35 per cent option over a North Russia oil ex-

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## AIM hopes for brighter 1999

By FRASER NELSON

INVESTORS are hoping the Alternative Investment Market can recover from its disastrous performance in 1998, when it suffered its sharpest setback.

Since the market was set up in July 1995, its stocks have dominated the top ten risers of the following years — with about an equal representation among the losers. This year, the AIM managed only three of the top ten performers and dominated the half of shame.

Its best shot was Independent Energy Holdings, which came to the market two years ago to profit from deregulation of electricity. It now supplies some 800 companies, and the City decided to take it seriously this year as it started to win contracts. This took the shares up a staggering 292 per cent.

The same fate befell Northern Petroleum, which used to pride itself on a 35 per cent option over a North Russia oil ex-



AIM table, page 44



# Sometimes silliness is the sensible option

**V**ic Reeves, in clown costume and bald wig, squeaked: "After you've had your supper and said prayers, how long is it before your hand slips down your pyjama bottoms?" Interviewee Damon Hill looked puzzled and answered that he didn't wear pyjamas.

As "The Stouts", two infantile circus clowns with their own chat-show, Reeves and Mortimer treat their guests with as little respect as Dennis Penn's ambushing celebrities and a good deal less than Mrs Merton. It would be nice to record that Hill took it in good part, but he didn't actually get the opportunity. He just sat there while they asked if his nose had been tested in a wind tunnel and if he took a map or just followed everybody else.

It was not the first hands-down-pans gag either. You don't have to have the mind of a pubescent boy to enjoy Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer (BBC2, Friday).

but it helps. As the first show of their new series wore on, I realised that I must still have one myself. After three years of thigh-rubbing, sufficed bear-hurling, Ulrika Jonsson-baiting, the revived sketch format was so completely silly from start to finish that it is quite difficult to explain why any of it is funny.

Occasionally there is a hint of satire, such as the mock doomsday about a sleepy Hull club where the host, Paul Barron, has Shallowed ladies' knickers to the bar stools for his "Erotic Night", or "Fumi Fumi", a sketch scathingly exposing seaside slot machines as tacky rip-offs. There's a touch of Post-Modernist something or other in the enormous Gilbert and George-style portraits which dominate the set.

But such glimpses of social observation and critical intelligence are completely irrelevant. Most of the material consists of the two of

them beating each other's heads with huge frying pans, fake pistols and baseball bats or chopping down two trees which are blocking their car doors instead of driving past them. Reeves and Mortimer tap into something very basic and very ancient:

**B**eing silly is, after all, a kind of freedom and they have confidence which found an unlikely echo in another new series which, in other respects, could hardly have been more different. In My Dark Rafters (Saturday, BBC2), the first of three Irish journeys, the award-winning correspondent Fergal Keane revisited his upbringing in north Kerry and the family legacy of Irish nationalism.

It took a while to get going. Soulful opening shots of diriyah fields, traditional pipe music and poetry suggested we were in for a stiff shot of emerald mist. In fact it soon

gelled into a crisp and pungent account of Irish attitudes to British rule, to partition, to the past and to the future of the Church.

Keane is from independent-minded stock. At 19 his grandmother carried guns for the volunteers in her bloomers. His author uncle described the "priest-ridden" state the country became for a generation or two. Keane himself moaned the "tired" national-

ism... the puritanical Catholicism... suffering and guilt; and darkness and shame.

It became an upbeat story of progress and hope, told through brief but resonant interviews. The account was doubtless partial, but Keane showed a freer, happier and more self-confident country with the fastest-growing economy in Europe, more optimistic and at ease with itself than ever before, secure enough to compromise with the Protestants over the future of the North.

The Irish, it seems, are looking forward to a bright future, so let us hope that they have actually got one and are not about to be plunged into the Apocalypse with the rest of wicked, sinning humanity. A paradox of modern television is that, while much of it seems to be "dumbing down" faster than Vic Reeves can bash himself on the head with a frying pan, some documentaries attempt to cram more

and more ideas into our heads at an ever faster rate.

**A**pocalypse When? (Channel 4, Sunday), an Equinox special, was one of the most ambitious and densely informative programmes that has ever assisted my cognitive functions. A little more structure, digestion and direction to the argument would have made it more satisfying to watch. But as they packed reasonably lucid explanations of the three-fold calendars of the Ancien Egyptians, the history of Christian calendar, atomic clocks and the slowings of the Earth's rotation, the origins of ideas of the Apocalypse, several doomsday cults and the millennium bug into 75 minutes, it seems churlish to complain.

Unfortunately they were no more than anyone else to predict exactly how much confusion will be caused by the "Y2K problem", but we met a New York com-

puter consultant called Peter de Jager who has been warning people about it since 1977. The members of the Bethel Gospel Assembly, also of New York, are pretty sure it's going to be catastrophic, however. This will suit them just fine.

They are good and ready for the arrival of the Antichrist. Whore of Babylon, Four Horsemen and all those other undesirables from the Book of Revelation, because assembly members will be included in something called "the Rapture". This means they will be swept up into Heaven with all the other true believers while the rest of us face the forces of evil, unable to programme our videos.

So it was reassuring to learn that the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ almost certainly passed uneventfully several years ago, and we can go back to hitting each other over the head with giant frying pans.

## REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

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**PROFILE 44**  
Behind the  
scenes of  
Reed Elsevier

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 4 1999

## SLUMP 46

Roger Bootle  
considers the  
1999 recession

## Pressure grows for rate cut as job prospects worsen

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE BANK of England is facing renewed pressure to cut rates this week after a new survey published today reveals that employment prospects are at their worst for more than four years.

Leading economists are also predicting that the economy began to shrink in the last quarter of 1998, the first contraction in economic activity since 1992.

The City, however, is sharply divided on whether the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee will make a further cut in rates at its monthly meeting this week. Many analysts believe that having reduced rates by 1.25 per cent in the past three months, the Bank will opt to wait for fresh indications on the health of the economy.

There is also increasing evidence that a last-minute Christmas shopping rush may have resulted in a better than expect-

ed performance on the high street. Banks are reporting record cash machine withdrawals and debit card spending over the Christmas period. Barclays said that £1.29 billion was withdrawn from its machines in December.

However, the Manpower Quarterly Survey of Employment Prospects shows that job prospects in all sectors of the economy are beginning to decline and that the trend rate is now similar to that going into the recession of the early Nineties. The

previously buoyant service sector is worst affected with nearly a quarter of companies expecting to reduce employment compared with just 5 per cent planning to raise staffing levels.

Further bad news is expected in the publication of the gross domestic product data this month showing the economy effectively in recession. Steven Bell, chief economist at Deutsche Bank, predicted that the Bank would wait to see the GDP data before cutting rates again. However,

he cautioned that the Office for National Statistics may choose to be cautious in its first estimate of GDP — which is based on an analysis of only 40 per cent of the total data — because the figure is likely to prove pivotal.

Michael Saunders, at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, supported the view that the data will show that the economy contracted in the fourth quarter but added that the Bank is likely to reduce rates by a quarter point this month because weaken-

ing activity data has predominated since the last MPC meeting in December.

Two reports published by leading economic think-tanks today also support the view that the economy is now on the verge of a technical recession. However, Oxford Economic Forecasting and Cambridge Econometrics are optimistic that the economy will avoid a deep recession with growth totalling about 0.5 per cent this year and rising to between 1 and 2 per cent in 2000.

## Pound faces turbulent euro future

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT, AND CAROLINE MERRELL

THE pound faces a "highly uncertain" future and could suffer some torrid trading as the single European currency finally became a reality, the City and the Bank of England cautioned last night.

John Townsend, director for Europe at the Bank of England, said that the immediate outlook for sterling-euro trading is clouded. "It's a highly uncertain outlook, we'll just have to see in the market place how sterling behaves," Mr Townsend said.

Most analysts expect the euro to strengthen in the coming weeks as central banks and investors shift an estimated \$1 trillion of assets into the new currency. Asian central banks, in particular, have indicated that they want to buy

into euros to reduce their heavy reliance on dollars in their reserves.

As a result, many economists expect the pound to lose value against the euro, though there is a risk that the pound could also continue to be treated as a "safe haven" by investors.

Trapped between the dollar and the euro, sterling is likely to face some volatile trading.

David Kern, chief economist at NatWest, said: "The euro is poised to be a strong currency that could threaten both the pound and the dollar. Over a period of months, the value of the pound against the euro is likely to fall."

Full-scale trading in the euro finally kicked off last night in Sydney, the first big currency market to reopen af-

ter the new year holiday, with the euro immediately making modest gains from last week's official conversion price.

Sydney traders quoted an opening price of \$1.1747, compared with the European Commission's official conversion price of \$1.1685. The euro also strengthened against the pound, climbing from 70.5p to 70.8p.

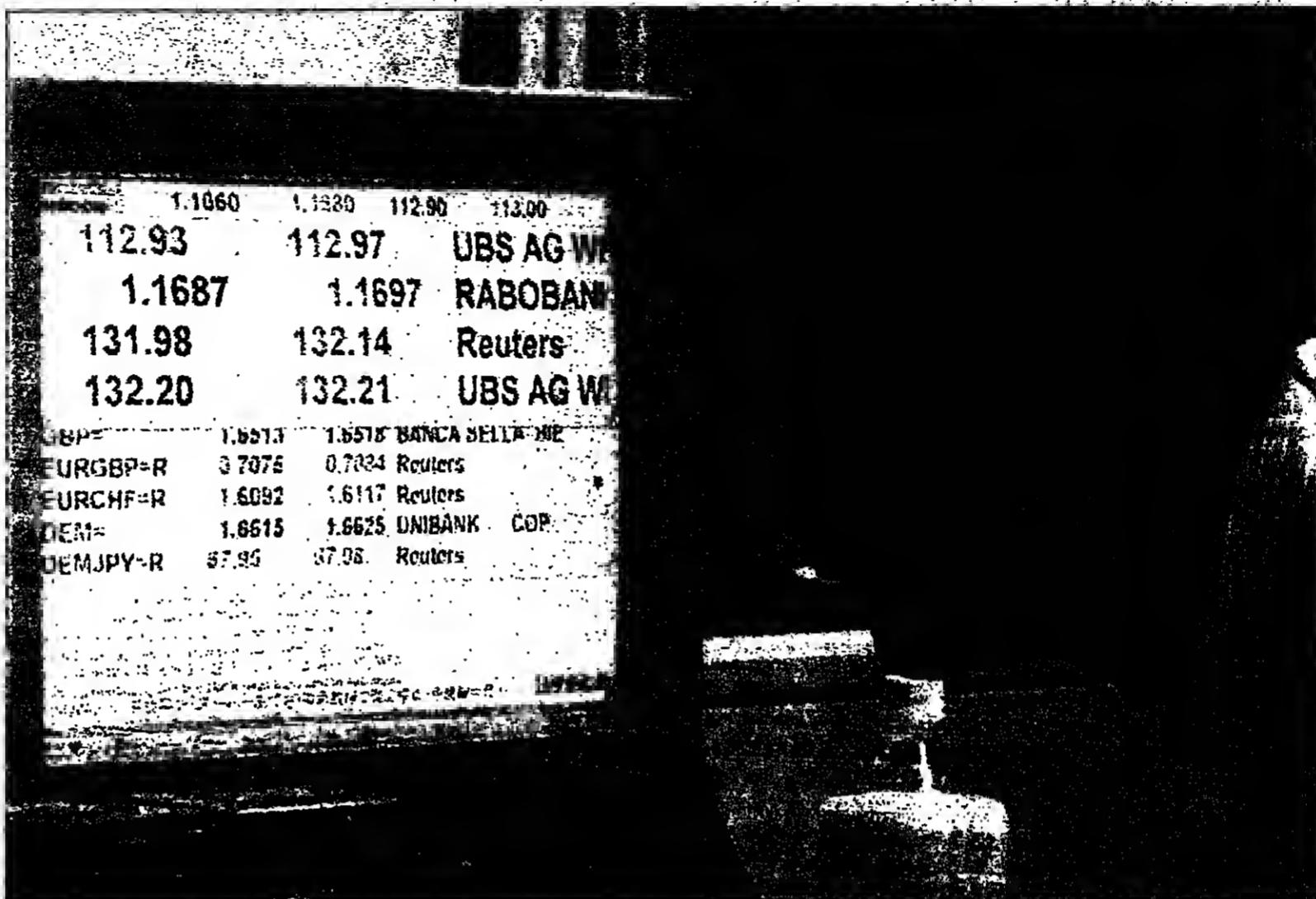
Trade was reported to be light, a trend that is expected to continue in European markets today as dealers wait to see if any problems emerge at the end of the conversion process.

The Bank of England, however, yesterday expressed confidence that the conversion process had gone to plan. David Clementi, the Deputy Governor who has been overseeing euro preparations, said: "The conversion weekend across the City has gone very smoothly indeed. People are well prepared."

The Bank's comments were supported by other financial institutions, with many reporting that they were able to send home early some of the estimated 30,000 people at work in the City over the weekend.

Nick Turdane, euro conversion manager at Credit Suisse First Boston, said that banks could lose money if they found that their software systems were not reconciling accounts correctly in euros. If this happened, the bank would have to stop trading.

Reports, 1, 6 and 43



Japanese debut: A money dealer checks the euro rate on his screen at the start of euro trading at a Tokyo foreign exchange brokerage yesterday

## GEC joins race to buy Nats stake

By CAROLINE MERRELL

GEC, which is believed to be close to agreeing a merger with British Aerospace, its defence rival, has emerged as a potential front-runner to buy the 51 per cent of the National Air Traffic Control Services (Nats) that has been put up for sale by the Government.

The electronics group headed by Lord Simpson of Dunfield is believed to be one of a

number of bidders interested in buying the stake in Nats.

Credit Suisse First Boston delivered a 180-page report on Nats to the Treasury and the Department of Transport just before Christmas. The Government is believed to favour a trade sale, rather than a straightforward flotation. Nats handles about 1.6 million flights a year and makes operating profits of £50 million.

However, the privatisation

of Nats has a number of problems. One stumbling block has been the new £350 million air traffic control centre in Swanwick, Hampshire. Nats was forced to admit last year that the control centre could open five years late because of problems with a computer system being built for it by Lockheed Martin.

The privatisation has also hit problems because of government plans to build a £2 billion

sell-off is not expected to be in place until the start of next year because of the need to decide how Nats will charge its customers.

The Government will retain a golden share in Nats but says it will not use its position to alter commercial decisions.

The sell-off of Nats was announced last summer, at the same time as the announcement of the sale of the Tote and the Royal Mint.

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## Goldsmiths poised to deepen retail gloom

By DOMINIC WALSH

GOLDSMITHS, the jewellery retailer that last month admitted being in bid talks, is today expected to add to the gloom pervading the high street with a disappointing Christmas trading statement.

A source close to the group,

which is thought to be in talks with Alchemy Partners, the venture capital group, said yesterday: "There's very little good news coming out of the high street. Most people have had a pretty tough Christmas. In addition, last year's trading was boosted by windfalls."

However, today's trading update, which will cover the 48 weeks to January 4, is unlikely to make any reference to the takeover speculation that has lifted the Goldsmiths share price from a low of 99p to 169p in the past two weeks.

Jurek Piasecki, chairman and chief executive, is thought to have secured backing from

Alchemy to take Goldsmiths private in a deal pitched at about 185p a share, valuing the jeweller at just over £44 million. It would be the second time that he has bought the company out. Two years after he became chairman in 1985 he accepted a £43 million takeover from the rival Ori-

Moment of truth, page 45

fame, only to buy the business back for £30 million in 1988. It was valued at £43 million at flotation in 1990.

Goldsmiths last month admitted receiving a "very preliminary approach" to enter discussions on a takeover.

Heading the list of suitors mentioned over the weekend is TRW, the Cleveland motor components and aerospace group. A year ago, the two companies formed a joint venture to develop power-assisted steering systems.

The rumours may be connected to suggestions that LucasVarity is considering reverting into a US auto components manufacturer. It recently had its plans to become a US company blocked by shareholders, but Victor Rice, its chief executive, believes a US quote is vital for it to participate in industry consolidation.

The list of potential US suitors includes Federal Mogul, Dana Corporation and Tenneco, while, in Europe, Valeo and Siemens are tipped.

Goldsmiths, led by Jurek Piasecki, gives a trading update today

No 1605

**ACROSS**  
1 Fighting force (4)  
3 Conspiracy to convict (slang)  
5 Sacred vocal piece (7)  
9 Classical prophetess (5)  
10 Small fish, herring (5)  
11 Some village — (Gray); a Glasgow Park (7)  
12 Two dots over vowel (9)  
17 Set of clothes etc for baby (7)  
19 Type of capital (architect), of bond (schem) (5)  
20 Practises a suite (5)  
22 Top of boat's side (7)  
23 Pressure position (3,4)  
24 Limit; school period (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1604**  
ACROSS: 1 Megastar 5 Ace 8 Cairn 9 Supremo 11 Bog 12 Yon Kippur 13 Ethnic 15 Sawyer 16 Explosive 19 Fue 20 Steele 21 Idyll 22 Mask 23 Hysteria DOWN: 1 Macabre 2 Going 3 Sunny side up 4 Assume 6 Cheaply 7 Scour 10 Philatelist 14 Napless 16 Regalia 17 Misery 18 Epsom 19 Boyer

**SOLUTION TO THE TIMES TWO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO**

ACROSS: 1 Tutanhamon (9) 7 Obstructiveness 15 Reprint

16 Weakening 17 Misleader 18 Where there's a will there's a way 20 Outdo 21 Two-edged sword 23 Tadpole

24 Dumbfounds 27 Nimbus 29 Turboprop 32 Origami

34 Telegraph pole 37 Eased 39 Emotionally 40 Remark

41 Decaying 43 Ardently 44 Margin 45 Smithsonian

47 Trece 49 Guided missile 50 Disturb 51 Reputable

54 Minnow 55 Two-wheeler 58 Artisan 60 Racquet player

63 Piano 65 The Charge of the Light Brigade 68 Undersold

69 Actuarial 70 Cremate 71 Hypersensitive 72 Ground staff

DOWN: 1 Throw good money after bad 2 Tippett

3 Noises off 4 Hotshot 5 Mower 6 Nearside

7 Overweening 8 Shields 9 Righteous 10 Commendation

11 Inspector 12 Emerald 13 Bedevour 14 Sari 19 Keep a dog and bark oneself 22 Old style 25 Mail order 26 Union flag 28 Bramaputra 30 Operators 31 Play safe

33 Alignment 35 Hardship 36 Eye-shadow 38 Spiritual

40 Regimen 42 Give away 46 Fire brigades 49 Shop steward 52 Patched up 53 Bangalore 54 Microwatt

56 Empress 57 Platting 59 Securer 61 Estates

62 Rubicon 64 Alabama 66 Hello 67 Gosh

THE boardroom row at Tay Homes, the northern housebuilder, will erupt into an open coup attempt today when a disaffected leading shareholder calls for a mass sacking of directors and the election of himself as chief executive.

Tay Homes, which has seen its shares steadily decline over the past five years, has been the subject of investor discontent led by Phillips & Drew, a 15 per cent shareholder.

Last month the Tay board received demands for a strategic review of the company. In addition the man calling for

change, Richard Tice, chief executive of Sunley Group, the unquoted building company, and a 10 per cent shareholder in Tay, said that he should take over as chief executive.

Just before Christmas, however, Tay's chairman, Norman Stubbs, and its chief executive, John Swanson, rejected Mr Tice's demands.

Today Mr Tice, claiming the support of Phillips & Drew, will call for an extraordinary meeting of the company to remove Messrs Stubbs and Swanson, as well as Stephen Evans, the finance director, and Jack Green, non-executive director, from the board.

It is thought that he would like to run Sunley side by side with Tay and that this move would forestall any bidder taking Tay at a substantial discount to net asset value.

In their stead, the EGM proposal states that Mr Tice would become chief executive, backed by Peter Hedges, a 31 director, as chairman and Stewart Utley, a Binder Hamlyn partner, as finance director. Tim Walter, the former Five Oaks Investments director, would become a non-executive.

Mr Tice argues that over the past five years Tay has underperformed the FTSE all-share index by 60 per cent and the building and construction sector by 40 per cent.

It is thought that he would like to run Sunley side by side with Tay and that this move would forestall any bidder taking Tay at a substantial discount to net asset value.

On the basis of the latest figures, Sunley is trading at 11.5p, while Tay is at 10.5p. The Sunley share price has fallen by 50 per cent since the start of the year, while Tay has fallen by 30 per cent.

Investors are likely to be sceptical of the proposal, particularly given the lack of a formal proposal and the absence of a formal proposal and the absence of a formal proposal and the